
Unions urged to root out racial bias or risk splitting movement

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

A serious indictment of race relations in British trade unions is contained in an unpublished report endorsed by the leadership of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), the country's biggest white-collar union.

The report discloses the emergence of black groups within NALGO itself, which the union's national executive fears could lead to the formation of separate trade unions. The separate party set up in working party set up in September 1982, admits the existence of considerable racial bias within NALGO and the rest of the labour movement.

It urges immediate action to prevent further splits. It says: "There is an urgent need for the union to change any practices which may have the effect of excluding black members, and introducing measures which ensure their views are not discounted."

The study will encounter considerable opposition from

white members who believe that to treat racial minorities separately is to go against the egalitarian principles of the movement, and from some black groups, who will say the report does not go far enough.

Indeed one black group, beyond the working party, has constituted and will attempt to argue against the union's national executive conference at Brighton in June. But the national executive is confident that the report will be accepted narrowly.

One of the bitterest pills for black members to swallow is the union's policy of "recruitment drive" among black workers is also urged. The report says both NALGO and the employers should implement the Race Relations recruitment drive among black workers is also urged. The report says both NALGO and the employers should implement the Race Relations recruitment drive among black workers is also urged.

Rebellion ends in pit overtime ban

By Our Labour Reporter

The rebellion over the miners' overtime ban among winding engineers came to an end yesterday when the national leaders decided to support the action.

The executive was taken by the decision to back their 200 representatives of the 1,400 engineers throughout the coalfield who met at a public house at Blidworth, Nottinghamshire, in the middle of a top coal producing area.

But Mr Stephen Higginson, spokesman for the union, said the miners' decision to support the overtime ban was a "very serious" one. He said the union's executive was "very pleased" that the miners had decided to support the overtime ban.

The miners in North Staffordshire had decided on Saturday not to take any further action.

Yesterday's three-hour meeting, which broke up amid angry exchanges with other miners,

Block to curbs on GPs

Legal difficulties may block a proposal to give the General Medical Council powers to impose conditional registration on doctors who fall below acceptable professional standards, but who are not judged guilty of "serious professional misconduct".

Mr Nigel Searling, Labour MP for Newcastle, said he would introduce a private member's Bill to give the GMC such powers after a case in which a

Sogat will risk asset seizure

By Our Labour Reporter

Mr William Keys, leader of the print union Sogat '82, said last night that he was prepared to face sequestration of the union's £18m funds in his battle with Mr Robert Maxwell over production of the *Radio Times*.

The union's national executive has voted to defy court orders taken out by the BBC and Mr Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing Corporation, which produces the magazine.

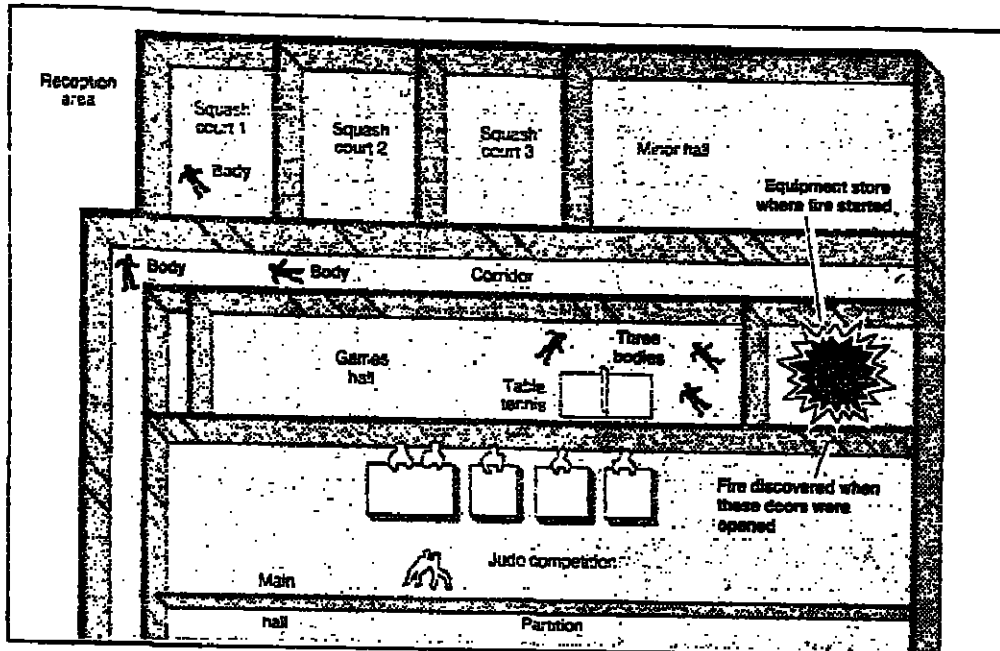
Mr Keys said yesterday he had no plans to reconvene the executive. The BBC and Mr Maxwell said last night they would return to court this week.

Mr Maxwell, who with the BBC, took out injunctions on Wednesday ordering Sogat to end restrictions on the print run of the *Radio Times* and its distribution in London, said yesterday that he had ended negotiations with the union on Saturday after it refused to lift its industrial action.

BPPC has been seeking to negotiate a new pay and manning agreement at its Park Royal plant in return for the introduction of a £10m web offset printing machine.

Mr Keys said that BPPC agreed on Friday to print 1.3 million copies of the *Radio Times* at Park Royal, with 1.3 million coming from the company's plant in East Kilbride, Scotland, and another 800,000 from Purwell's Bristol.

Sogat's national council has instructed BPPC workers to print all but 600,000 copies



The layout at the Maysfield leisure centre in west Belfast.



Mrs Gibson and her daughters Angela (left) and Julie who died in the fire.

Fire rescue attempt kills two

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A mother trying to reach her two young daughters and a man who was also thought to be trying to rescue the children were among the six people who died in the fire at a Belfast leisure club on Saturday.

Mrs Lorraine Gibson was discovered at the Maysfield centre in a corridor where she had been overcome by toxic fumes from blazing mattresses as she went to rescue Angela, aged nine, and Julie, aged seven. The girls were found in a games room with Mr James Smyth, aged 33.

Mr Cecil White, aged 64, who lives in the same road as Mrs Gibson, was also found dead in the corridor and it is thought that he was trying to reach the children.

The sixth victim, who like the others came from Belfast, was David Bates, aged 16, who was discovered lying on a squash court opposite the games room.

City councillors are worried that Saturday's fire comes only two months after a similar blaze in another centre in west Belfast.

Both fires began in store-rooms but in the blaze at the Andersonstown centre in west Belfast, started by an incendiary device, no one was injured although it was extensively damaged.

While the police expect to have established the cause of Saturday's fire by later this

week, Mr Terry Watts, the man who discovered it, is convinced it was started by an incendiary device. "Fires do not just break out in store-rooms where mattresses padded with foam are kept. Some moron has done this deliberately," he said.

A senior city councillor said: "There is something fishy about both fires starting in store-rooms. It does not seem to have been an electrical fault and there were no naked lights in the area." The councillor added that after the fire in Andersonstown, a full report had been made to the city council but now their main concern would be to reassure the public that the rest of Belfast's leisure centres were safe.

'Absolute' guarantee for New Cross investors

Investors in the New Cross Building Society were told yesterday they would get their money back towards the end of February when a merger with the Woolwich Building Society was approved.

Mr Michael Tuke, Woolwich Building Society's general manager, said investors could be "absolutely assured" they would get their money back pound for pound.

Hundreds of investors waited outside the New Cross head office in South-east London on

Heath set to attack Rates Bill

By John Winder

Mr Edward Heath along with some other former Conservative Cabinet ministers, are expected to attack the Government's proposals on "rate-capping" when the Rates Bill is debated tomorrow in the Commons.

There is, however, scepticism among MPs whether any of the Bills Conservative critics will actually vote against the measure since it contains other proposals that they support.

The Tory MPs' opposition has not been orchestrated and there is no sign that they have organized into a group to amend the Bill.

Mr Heath has refused so far to be drawn on the stance he will take, even though some commentators have suggested that he may vote against the Bill. Mr Heath, in spite of his stated antipathy towards Mrs Thatcher's administration, has never voted against any of its legislation.

Many Conservative MPs are still members in various capacities, of associations of local authorities which are opposed to the proposal.

Powerful extra-parliamentary support for the Bill comes today from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

Rate capping: The reality, page 8
Letters, page 9

Owen stands firm on nuclear split with Liberals

The Social Democrats yesterday reaffirmed their split with their Liberal partners in the Alliance on the central issue of nuclear defence (Our Political Correspondent writes).

The party's policy-making Council for Social Democracy, meeting at the University of Aston in Birmingham, endorsed the need for "a minimum deterrent strategy" and accepted cruise deployment.

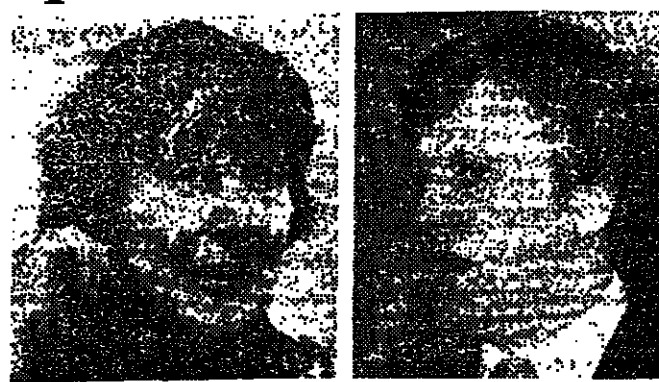
Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has said he opposes cruise and his party also stands against the independent British nuclear deterrent, demanding a fast phase-out of Polaris.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat's

leader, remains calm about this difference within the Alliance. He believes disarmament negotiations may bring a breakthrough on cruise and Polaris, which would bring the Alliance back together.

It is also felt that even without a disarmament deal, Mr Steel would agree a compromise to satisfy Dr Owen's strong line on defence.

Dr Owen said on Saturday: "The SDP was right to reject unilateral disarmament decisively at the last election. We remain firmly opposed to Trident, but to identify ourselves with the 'refuse cruise' campaign would be to identify ourselves with unilateralism."



Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Charles Kennedy

Call for full-time volunteer forces

Dr David Owen floated the idea of full-time volunteer forces to boost manpower in the armed services and full time health and welfare needs.

The concept was strictly voluntary. It was "not the reintroduction of national service, it is not compulsory, it is not even primarily put forward to alleviate unemployment".

Dr Owen said: "It is primarily put forward to meet unmet needs and to allow people, mainly young but not exclusively so, to contribute to society."

He said that short of getting agreement in the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks, Britain ought to consider a "modest increase" in armed forces numbers by encouraging a scheme of voluntary service for a year with a regular training commitment for seven years to contribute to a well trained mobile reserve.

He said: "We need more precision-guided conventional

munitions, better equipment and improved air force capacity for greater mobility. But the financial squeeze is so tight even at present that some argue, wrongly in my view, to cut back on BAOR."

Dr Owen pointed out, however, that most of the volunteers would be needed to serve in the community.

The main thrust of the debate was how to prevent the National Health Service and community-related services from deteriorating so that the ethical principles on which it was founded were eroded.

Dr Owen was continually horrified by society's appalling mismatch of resources. He asked why, with so many necessary tasks unfulfilled and unmet needs, society accepted that so many of its citizens should live in enforced idleness.

He said Britain could begin seriously meeting the needs of the disadvantaged and disabled and enhance the quality of life and opportunities for many in society only by increasing the

number of hours available to community service schemes.

Dr Owen added: "I believe there are many between school and higher education who would welcome enhanced opportunities to contribute for a year and perhaps reinforce this with a further few weeks every year for a period."

Mr Roy Jenkins, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, speaking on defence policy, advocated a strategy aimed at no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

Reports by Stephen Goodwin and Derek Barnett

The council passed a motion reaffirming SDP defence policy, including strengthening conventional forces, establishing a battlefield nuclear weapon-free zone, cancelling Trident, and dual-key control of cruise missiles in Britain.

It also passed an amendment that a main objective of Nato defence policy must be to establish an effective non-nuclear, non-provocative capability against any possible invasion so that its strategy would become based on the no-first-use concept.

The Social Democrats are well prepared for the June elections to the European Parliament, Mrs Shirley Williams, the party's president, told the council in a report on the negotiations with the Liberals over the allocation of seats.

She said that "contrary to many pieces of speculation that have appeared in the press" agreement had been reached for well over half the 78 seats in England, Wales and Scotland, and was on the way to completion in almost all of them.

Thatcher attacked on Ulster policy

An attack on the Prime Minister's approach to the Northern Ireland troubles was made by Mr Robert MacLennan. The council carried a policy committee motion of a joint formation of a joint commission between the SDP and the Liberals on Ulster's future.

Mr MacLennan said Mrs Thatcher "can have done nothing to reassure the people of Northern Ireland by sending to Belfast as Secretary of State, against his expressed wish, the senior politician whose judgement she most plainly distrusted, Jim Prior".

Nor has the Prime Minister, since Mr Prior's appointment, shown any disposition to give priority of consideration to the affairs of Northern Ireland, Mr MacLennan said.

Leaders of both communities

Health service near collapse

A doctor said that the National Health Service was on the brink of collapse and that its goodwill had been exploited by chronic underfunding.

Dr Althea Price, of Barnsley, said a commitment to a 1½ per cent a year growth in spending, as contained in a motion before the council, was not enough to make good the deficiencies.

She knew even of patients who could not get baths for long periods because nurses were not available.

The council agreed to the 1½ per cent figure, as opposed to one of 2 per cent contained in a defeated amendment.

The motion sought improvements, reaffirming the SDP's commitment to a universal service, free at the point of use.

The motion also condemned the Government's manpower targets and opposed its "doctrine" of pursuit of privatization.

Mr Charles Kennedy, SDP spokesman on health and social services, and MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, said the Government had reneged on its obligation to the service, while the Labour Party was full of inconsistencies.

Threatened councils say abolition will centralize power

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The six English metropolitan county councils protested yesterday that the Government's plan to abolish them was "an affront to Parliament" which would increase central power.

The Labour-led authorities claimed in a long reply to the plan to have spotted 40 points of control at which abolition would switch power from local to central government.

The councils suggested that the Government divide and rule if their functions were shared among 36 district councils and up to 48 communities. The councils are Merseyside, West and South Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Tyne & Wear. They were replying to the 1983 White Paper *Streamlining The Cities*, proposing the abolition of them and the Greater London Council.

The councils timed their complaints about Government interference to coincide with the peak of Conservative resistance to the supposed increase in ministerial powers in the Government's "rate-capping" proposals. Much in yesterday's document repeated earlier statements from the six including their call for an independent inquiry into the effects of abolition.

Two leaders of minority Conservative groups in the six said yesterday that they supported abolition. Mr Irvine Patrick of South Yorkshire, and Mr Neville Goldstein of Merseyside, were among 21 prominent Conservative councillors who support for "rate-capping" was publicized by the party's central office on Friday.

Mr Patrick, who also belongs to Sheffield City Council, said that district councils had cooperated over services before and could do so again. Sheffield is one of the councils expected by ministers to take on extra duties after the abolition of South Yorkshire.

The six said that abolition would give the Government greater control over local planning decisions and predicted that it would lead to wasteful competition and duplication of effort among successor councils.

They complained that the Government had failed to explain how successors would maintain their high levels of care for museums, theatres, archaeological investigations and collections of local archives.

"In its haste to implement the proposals the Government is eroding democratic procedures," the councils said in

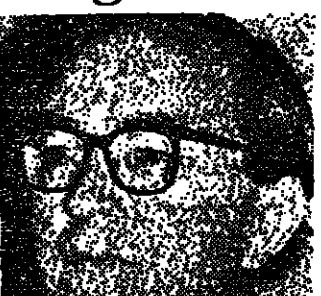
their 25-page paper. That was because ministers would seek powers to cancel the 1985 elections in the councils before seeking powers to scrap the councils themselves in 1986. If Parliament threw out the Bill to abolish the councils after accepting that the elections should be cancelled, there would be no timetable for a return to directly-elected councils.

Man in the news

Whitehall mandarin with a Chinese background

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A new but not entirely unfamiliar face crossed the narrow threshold of 10 Downing Street last week - and will be much in evidence today when unofficial (non-administrative) members of Hongkong's executive council, the colony's "Cabinet", arrive for talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.



Sir Percy Cradock: New post at No 10.

It belongs to Sir Percy Cradock, who at the age of 60 has succeeded Sir Anthony Parsons as Mrs Thatcher's special adviser on foreign affairs. Like Sir Anthony he is a recently-retired diplomat and again like his predecessor he has gone to No 10 after a round of complex negotiations over a residual legacy of empire. But the resemblance largely stops there.

Parsons' piece was the Falkland Islands, when he was Britain's permanent representative at the United Nations during the 1982 war with Argentina. Cradock's is Hong Kong, in whose uncertain future he became involved while conducting the Anglo-Chinese talks as our ambassador in Peking.

Again, unlike his predecessor he will be at No 10 for only part of the time, crossing Downing Street to a second desk he is retaining at the Foreign Office, from where he will keep an official eye on the Hong Kong talks. But for his wife's health he would probably have remained in China to see the talks through.

Intellectually at least the dual responsibility should present him with few problems. Sir Percy might lack Sir Anthony's broad experience, having spent most of his career in the Far East or in the East-West forum. But he has long been regarded as having one of the best brains in the Foreign Office, with an elegant succinct prose style which has made his telegrams from abroad minor classics of their kind.

He took first-class honours in English and Law at Cambridge (St John's College) where he went after war service with the

He served in Kuala Lumpur, Peking, Berlin - where he was ambassador to East Germany - and Geneva (as leader of the British delegation to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty talks) before returning to China as ambassador in 1978. In the late 1960s he was frequently in the news as British charge d'affaires in Peking during the Cultural Revolution, when he worked hard for the release of Mr Anthony Gray, the Reuters correspondent held under house arrest. More recently he entered the headlines when Watford FC footballers and their famous pop-singing chairman Elton John objected to being entertained by the British Embassy in what was described as a "scout hut" while playing China in Peking. Sir Percy was said to be "fuming" over the incident, but did not apparently attend the match.

He is not the sort of man one associates with football matches. Sir Anthony Parsons is sociable, volatile, humorous. Cradock is described by colleagues as the perfect mandarin - Whitehall if not Chinese - discreet and "economical in his use of words". A raised eyebrow is his most awesome sign of displeasure, but its effect is said to be devastating.

The Chinese found him a tough nut anyway and admired his negotiating skill. They found him, by all accounts, wonderfully inscrutable. It is a quality he should find useful at No 10.

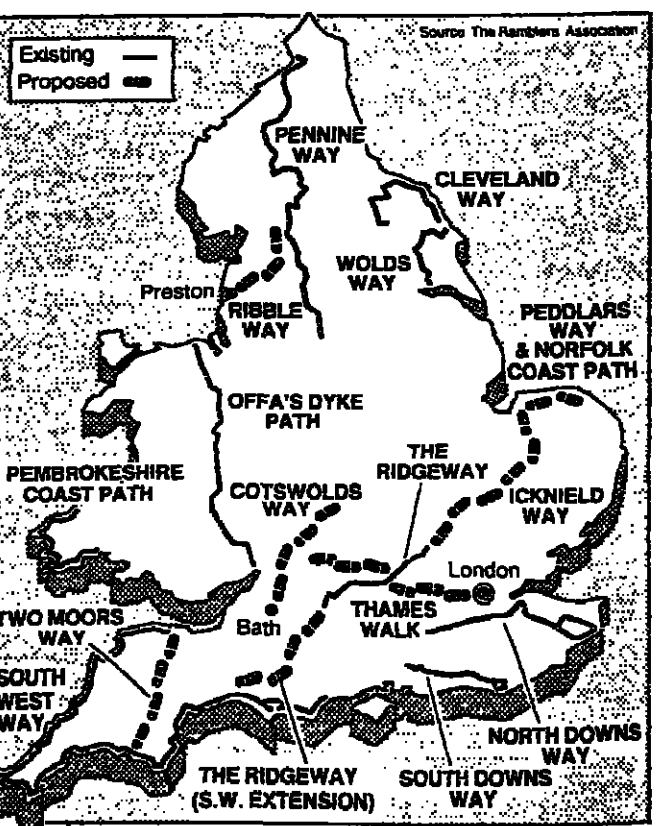
Footpaths demand by ramblers

By John Young

The Ramblers' Association has asked the Countryside Commission to designate a further seven national long distance footpaths before the year 2000.

Its proposed new routes are the Two Moors Way, 100 miles from Ivybridge, in south Devon, across Dartmoor and Exmoor to Lymington; a 100 mile extension of the Ridgeway, south-west from Avebury, Wiltshire, to Lyme Regis; another 100 mile extension of the Ridgeway, north-east to Thetford, in Norfolk, to be known as the Icknield Way; the Thames Walk, 160 miles from the Palace of Westminster to the river's source in the Cotswolds; the Ribble Way, 64 miles from Preston to Horton in Ribblesdale; the Cotswold Way, 95 miles from Chipping Campden to Bath; and an extension of the South Downs Way from the Sussex/Hampshire border to the Hampshire coast.

In its submission to the commission, the association states that the ten existing routes have proved extremely popular, and that there is a strong public demand for more. The commission's present study of access to the countryside is unlikely to be finished before



Overseas selling prices: £1.80 Canada \$2.75, £1.80 Germany \$2.75, £1.80 France \$2.75, £1.80 Italy \$2.75, £1.80 Japan \$2.75, £1.80 USA \$2.75, £1.80 Australia \$2.75, £1.80 New Zealand \$2.75, £1.80 South Africa \$2.75, £1.80 India \$2.75, £1.80 Pakistan \$2.75, £1.80 Bangladesh \$2.75, £1.80 Sri Lanka \$2.75, £1.80 Nepal \$2.75, £1.80 Bhutan \$2.75, £1.80 Tibet \$2.75, £1.80 Mongolia \$2.75, £1.80 China \$2.75, £1.80 North Korea \$2.75, £1.80 South Korea \$2.75, £1.80 Japan \$2.75, £1.80 USA \$2.75, £1.80 Australia \$2.75, £1.80 New Zealand \$2.75, £1.80 South Africa \$2.75, £1.80 India \$2.75, £1.80 Pakistan \$2.75, £1.80 Bangladesh \$2.75, £1.80 Sri Lanka \$2.75, £1.80 Nepal \$2.75, £1.80 Bhutan \$2.75, £1.80 Tibet \$2.75, £1.80 Mongolia \$2.75, £1.80 China \$2.75, £1.80 North Korea \$2.75, £1.80 South Korea \$2.75, £1.80 Japan \$2.75, £1.80 USA \$2.75, £1.80 Australia \$2.75, £1.80 New Zealand \$2.75, £1.80 South Africa \$2.75, £1.80 India \$2.75, £1.80 Pakistan \$2.75, £1.80 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Breakfast TV celebrates cosy first birthday with substantial audience

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Industrial disputes permitting, early morning champagne will flow at the BBC tomorrow to celebrate one year of breakfast television.

Breakfast Time's commercial rival, TV-am, celebrates its anniversary on February 1. But with its history of managerial turmoil and superstar dismissals, the station may have more cause for reflection than its BBC counterpart, where the engaging homeliness of Frank Bough's jumpers and Selina Scott's comforting inability to start the day with all cylinders firing now appear part of breakfast.

The cosy self-satisfaction of the BBC, and the new-found commercial populism of TV-am, tend to disguise the fact that morning television has dramatically changed some cherished notions about broad-

casting and its relationship with family life.

A few transformations were forecast before the breakfast programmes appeared, but most prophets missed the mark. It was widely believed that morning television would lead to a rapid increase in the ownership of second television sets, to enable the addicted viewers to watch Russell Grant, deliver his astrological predictions in the bedroom or kitchen.

In fact, although second set ownership is growing, breakfast television seems to have done nothing to increase an existing trend.

Research by the advertising agency McCormick International-Farmer found that women used the medium more like radio than television. Most said that they viewed the programme in the lounge rather than the

kitchen, while getting on with other jobs, and that they previously listened to radio.

The habit was so marked that the agency suggested that advertising aimed at women should have a higher verbal and lower visual content than normal. In other words, the breaks should virtually be radio advertising, effective through being heard rather than seen.

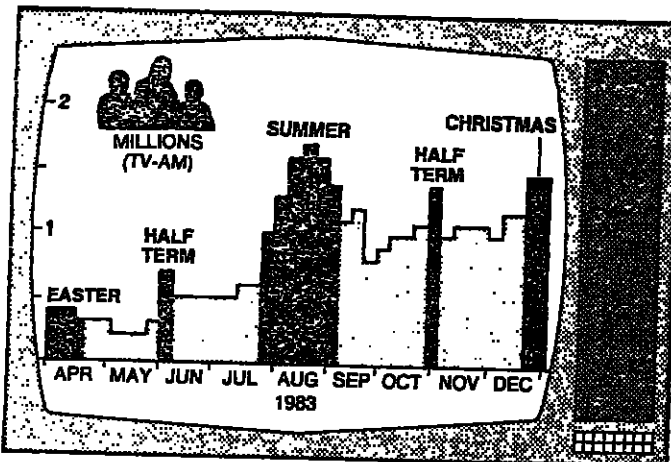
The position was markedly different with men. TV-am's weekly reach among men is more than 20 per cent less than among women, but those who do tune in tend to watch TV-am in the same way as evening television. They concentrate on the programme and are least likely to do something distracting during the advertising breaks.

Since TV-am is a commercial station which needs to know its audience to sell advertising, the bulk of research into the breakfast viewer is based on its output. It is difficult to ascertain how much applies to the BBC.

Mr Ian Davis, TV-am's head of research, says that it is a myth that the station's revival is due to the popularity of its Roland Rat puppet with children.

On December 23 the rat's antics in Switzerland attracted an estimated audience of 2.1 million of which 900,000 were adults.

Mr Davis believes there is a "children-led" swing to breakfast television, in which youngsters take up the antics of Roland Rat, and their mothers gradually become involved in the programme.



How breakfast TV viewing rises during school holidays.

50 years of Radio Luxembourg

By Our Arts Correspondent

Radio Luxembourg celebrated 50 years of English language broadcasts yesterday with its first show from London for more than 20 years.

The direct link to London by land line was the result of a special one-day dispensation by the Home Office to allow Radio Tele-Luxembourg to broadcast the anniversary show. Several pop personalities took part in the show to thank RTL for its pioneering role as one of the first pop music stations.

The station's English services were popular from the beginning in 1934 when they offered light music as a contrast to the more serious output of the BBC. During the Second World War, its premises were seized by the Germans and used for broadcasting propaganda, notably through William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw Haw. Joyce, who feared being attacked if he came to the Grand Duchy itself, usually pre-recorded the broadcasts in Hamburg.

The English service, known as 208, its medium wave frequency, won a new generation of followers during the pop music boom of the 1950s and 1960s.

Six cleared in fraud case over gold coins

One of the Great Train Robbers, Roy James, and five other men have been cleared of taking part in an alleged £2.4m gold fraud.

The six men, with Charles Wilson, aged 51, of Cranford Way, Twickenham, south-west London, and Ronald Evans, aged 42, of Myddleton Square, Ebury, London, had denied conspiracy to defraud the Customs and Excise of value-added tax between November 1981 and March 1982.

The Central Criminal Court jury, who had deliberated for three days, failed on Saturday to reach a verdict on Mr Wilson. Mr Wilson may now face a retrial.

Evans, said to be a front man, was found guilty and jailed for three and a half years.

The prosecution alleged that in four months the men bought more than 75,000 gold coins, worth £16m and made up of kruggerands and Canadian maple leaf coins on which VAT was not charged.

Mr Paul Purnell, QC for the prosecution, said the coins were melted down and sold as gold.

'Morning after' pill to get safety clearance

The Committee on Safety of Medicines is to announce safety clearance shortly for the "morning after" contraceptive pill which can be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse.

The pill has been approved for emergency use and was cleared on legal grounds last year by Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, after allegations from anti-abortion groups that its use amounted to an illegal abortion.

The committee, the Government's drug safety watchdog, has been studying whether the contraceptive is safe.

Hit-and-run car driver swears at boy victim

A boy aged 15 left screaming and bleeding in the road by a driver who then got out of the car, swore at him and told him to go away has given the police a full description of the motorist.

Mark O'Flaherty, who suffered a broken leg and head injuries as he bounced off the bonnet of a light-coloured Citroen hatchback, said yesterday: "He was 45 to 55 with balding, grey hair."

The boy, from Paignton, Devon, was knocked down at the junction of Colley End Road and Well Street on Thursday night.

How Ravel was cut for the ice

By a Staff Reporter

Ravel's contribution to the winning combination of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean at the European ice dancing championships on Saturday will not have escaped music lovers.

But in its original form, Maurice Ravel's *Bolero* takes just over 17 minutes to play, while the two champions were on the ice for less than a quarter of that time.

The arrangement recorded especially for Torvill and Dean and which is now available on record, was a blend of the talents of three men with modern technology.

Robert Stewart, a music arranger, was first asked to reduce the *Bolero* in length. Within days, the skaters were able to take his taped, piano score to their training headquarters in Oberstdorf, West Germany.

After three months Torvill and Dean returned to England in July for a proper recording session, with Richard Hartley, the producer, and Alan Hawkshaw, a former member of the Shadows pop group, who provided £200,000 worth of recording equipment.

Synthesizers were used to produce 30 recording tracks for the final product, all controlled by a central computer. Mr Hawkshaw said: "We used synthesizers for most of the instruments because it was the only way we could get a sound completely without any echo."

"The acoustics of an ice rink add their own echoes, and if we had used a real orchestra, recorded in natural surroundings, the result would have been too indistinct."

Before starting to record, they had to lay down a pace-setting track, using clicks to establish a beat.

Hard row to hoe if gardeners fear weedkiller

Gardeners spend as much as 58 per cent of their time weeding, it was said at a weekend seminar held by ICI at their Middlesex headquarters in London last Friday.

Of 10 million gardens weeded in Britain 6.5 million are weeded by hand, hoe or mechanical means, rather than by chemical weedkillers.

Hand weeding and hoeing are not only time consuming but can also result in back pains. Because of back trouble some countries have banned the garden hoe.

It seems that many gardeners do not use chemical weedkillers because little is understood of how they work. There is also a widely-held belief that weedkillers are dangerous to people and animals. But if used as directed they are no more dangerous than household bleach, it was claimed.

Viewers of the Swindon system, which has a capacity for 10 channels, will be able to choose tonight between the two BBC channels, four independent channels (Harlech Television, Central, TVS (Southampton) and Channel Four), Cinematel (a film service offered by Thorn-EMI) and the satellite Sky Channel. That service will be increased to 10 channels in the spring and will include about five hours a day of sport, provided by Cable Sport and Leisure.

The cable system in Swindon will be replaced, beginning this year, by a new multichannel system.

Shopping and banking from home will be offered by the new system.

Junior doctors oppose plan

Junior hospital doctors as a whole are not in favour of the Griffiths report proposal to appoint general managers as chief executives throughout the health service, Mr Stephen Brearley, chairman of the Hospital Junior Staff Committee said yesterday.

He has written to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, protesting at Mr Fowler's claim last week that the junior were backing the plan. The minister's statement was based on comments by Dr Aubrey Briscoe, a member of the BMA's council, saying that junior doctors in the four Thames regions backed the plan.

Dr Robert Jones, whose wife Diane was murdered last July, has asked the police to extend his bail for another three weeks. He was due to surrender his bail at Ipswich, Suffolk, on Wednesday, but Mr David Church, his solicitor, said yesterday: "The bail has been extended for personal reasons and by mutual agreement with the police."

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Lake District home sales ban quashed

By Ronald Faux

The Government has prevented the Lake District Special Planning Board ruling that new property could only be sold to local residents.

One man wanting to sell his house he built three years ago expected it to be worth £10,000 more as a second home.

The planning board has taken legal advice and is to issue new guidelines which are understood to include a condition requiring that anyone moving into a new house should use it as a main dwelling.

Already stringent controls on development would be tightened, particularly when building outside existing villages and settlements.

Within villages, development will only be allowed when it provides for residents needs of helps create jobs. New buildings must match the character and style of existing property.

Eleven appeals have been lodged against the structure plan and Mr Jenkin's ruling could alter the value of property.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, struck out the "locals-only" clause from the structure plan controlling development in the Lake District National Park.

The board is worried that the growing market for second homes in the Lake District is raising property prices beyond the means of many people wanting to live and work in the area.

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Psychologists can cut GPs' drug bills, survey shows

Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

National Health Service doctors' time and give a service to patients if psychologists worked the doctors.

The conclusion of a year study by the south west regional health authority in which psychologists worked with six GPs in a group of 200 patients with a variety of conditions, sexual and marital problems, work or coping with such as cancer or multiple sclerosis, was that they wanted to see a GP.

On average, each patient put two and a half visits with a psychologist, techniques based on the patient to talk problem and find solutions.

Dr Richard Jenkinson, the family doctor in the study, and Mrs Robson, the psychologist, said patients responded quickly. Compared with a similar group of patients who received treatment "they more rapidly, both in estimation and in that of patients' and relatives", Dr

Costs for tranquillizers, sleeping pills and related drugs were halved, and in the following six months those who had seen the psychologist came back to see their family doctors half as frequently as patients in the other group. Dr Jenkinson said: "In addition there are other benefits that are more difficult to measure, such as better attendance and performance at work, and less stress in family life."

Dr Jenkinson said he believed doctors' education and training still did not equip them fully to cope with many of the mainly psychological and social problems that are brought to family doctors. "We believe that clinical psychologists, who, although highly trained, are less expensive than doctors, have an important part to play."

There was a case, he said, for recruiting more psychologists to work with GPs, rather than providing a big increase in the number of family doctors.

In a group practice such as the one in Yeovil, Hampshire, where the study was done, with about 15,000 patients, a psychologist was needed for three to four half-days a week to cover the types of patients who would benefit. One psychologist's time could therefore be divided between about three practices of that size, and the saving on drugs alone would pay for about a quarter of the psychologist's time.

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In a group practice such as the one in Yeovil, Hampshire, where the study was done, with about 15,000 patients, a psychologist was needed for three to four half-days a week to cover the types of patients who would benefit. One psychologist's time could therefore be divided between about three practices of that size, and the saving on drugs alone would pay for about a quarter of the psychologist's time.

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Nato disarray before Stockholm

Bitter speeches betray a mutual loss of trust by Europe and America

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Europe and the United States no longer trust or respect each other, to judge from the bitter words exchanged during a three-day top-level conference on the future of Nato and global security, which ended in Brussels on Saturday.

Championing Europe's cause, the former West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, lashed out at the "treasonous" behaviour of the United States, which was "concerned at the way successive administrations switched their foreign policy."

For the other side, Mr James Schlesinger, the former Defence Secretary, accused the European NATO Allies of their lack of effort and gave a warning that they could not rely on automatic American support. There was, he said, an unprecedented degree of mutual disenchantment.

In the words of M. Jean Francois-Poncet, a former French foreign minister, "Every one of us knew the real title of the conference was 'Atlantic disarray' and by God you got it."

Although many of the speakers at the conference, organized by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University, no longer held high public office, they were all people still very much in public life.

Hopes of progress pinned on face-to-face meetings

From Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent, Stockholm

Thirty-five foreign ministers are assembling here tonight for tomorrow's grand opening of the Conference on Disarmament in Europe (CDE) where they hope to lower East-West tension by reducing the risk of a surprise attack.

It will be the first official contact between the world's two big power blocs since the Russians walked off from three sets of arms talks before Christmas in varying degrees of dudgeon over the stationing of new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

A series of bilateral meetings between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and among others Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State on Wednesday and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, on Thursday, are threatening to overshadow the conference itself, encouraging speculation over a return by the Russians to the other negotiating tables.

CDE is an offspring of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which resulted in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and more specifically of the review conference which closed in Madrid last September after three years of wrangling.

Under the Final Act they all agreed a set of so-called confidence-building measures (CBMs) under which they would notify each other 21 days in advance of all military manoeuvres involving more than 25,000 men. Now that would like to introduce a closer code of conduct for armies in Europe, including a commitment to advance notice of all troop movements of more than a division.

The Final Act limits CBM obligations to a 150 mile zone on either side of the Iron Curtain, leaving the Russians themselves prepared to extend this provision to cover all Europe, east as the Ural mountains. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization in return to concentrate the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Western flank, with the elements of Western war. But a compromise has already been worked out in Madrid.

Mr Stanislaw Kondras, an *Isvestia* commentator, said last night that the Helsinki conference could take good the damage to Europe's security and the of constructive cooperation, the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles.

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Moscow's gloomy view

From Richard Owen, Moscow

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Pro-Soviet party set up in Spain

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A new, pro-Soviet communist party was born here yesterday with the blessing of Moscow and the avowed intention of uprooting "the political-ideological degeneration" which introduced Eurocommunism.

Nearly 1,000 delegates, most of them dissidents from the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), or representatives of organizations to the left of the PCE, took part in a three-day "Communist Unity Congress" in Madrid which ended with the creation of the new party under the leadership of Senor Ignacio Gallejo, a hardliner and until last month member of the central committee and the executive committee of the PCE.

A Tass report, praising the congress and its aims, indicated at least moral support from Moscow.

The new party finally settled for the name Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain (CPPE). It wants Spain to leave Nato and refrain from joining the EEC, and advocates a federal republic, rather than the present monarchy.

The party is the result of deep divisions within the PCE, led by a young Asturian miner, Senor Gerardo Iglesias, who relegated Lenin to a purely historical role, and who feels that his party should support the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) without sacrificing its own identity.

The leader of the principal faction, which unsuccessfully tried to unseat Senor Iglesias at the December congress, Senor Santiago Carrillo, a former PCE secretary-general, is also a Eurocommunist, and therefore was not among the founders of the new party.



Ordeal over: Corporal Fowler leaving hospital yesterday after treatment for exposure.

Missing US soldier says he was kidnapped

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A 21-year-old American soldier who was apparently kidnapped over the weekend, and was found asleep in a farmyard early yesterday morning, was being questioned by West German police yesterday after treatment in hospital for exposure.

Corporal Liam Fowler, from the 56th Artillery Group in new Pershing 2 missiles have been deployed, went missing on Friday night. An anonymous caller told the German press agency, DPA, that he had been kidnapped by demonstrators.

During his absence he twice telephoned his wife at the base and told her that a number of Germans had seized him. They were demanding that she contact his parents in Florida, so that they could publish a statement in the American news media saying that the missiles were not wanted in the Federal Republic. Corporal Fowler's parents, who live in Port Orange, made no comment.

A special police commando was set up on Saturday to trace him. A spokesman at the American base said there was a real danger that he had been kidnapped.

Corporal Fowler was discovered at 6.15 am at Miesbach in Bavaria, covered with certain material. He was able to give his name only after two hours in hospital.



Last tribute: Lebanese militiamen bear the body of Major Haddad to lie in state at Marjayoun, his home village, until today's funeral. Left, Major Haddad in 1982.

Israelis mourn death of their great ally

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israeli leaders yesterday mourned Major Saad Haddad, commander of the South Lebanese militia, who died on Saturday from cancer at his home in Marjayoun, southern Lebanon.

The Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem rose in tribute while Mr Shamir, the Prime Minister, eulogized him. Statements were also issued by present and past Cabinet ministers and generals.

They depicted him as a Lebanese patriot dedicated to liberating his country from the Syrians and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. They said he had cooperated with Israel when their interests coincided.

According to Major-General Avigdor Bengali, he frequently scolded Israel: "It's the commander, I know what's good and what isn't good for South Lebanon," he would say.

Israelis who had helped Major Haddad to expand his militia to brigade strength with tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers said they were indebted to the

South Lebanese for having absorbed so many terrorist attacks intended for Northern Israel.

Some Israeli commentators said the indebtedness to Major Haddad had burdened the Jerusalem government in their political negotiations with Beirut.

● BEIRUT: Major Haddad's death is unlikely to have much effect on the course of events there, Lebanese military sources said (Reuters reports). He had little political weight in Lebanon outside his original zone of influence along Israel's northern border, they said.

The major's body will lie in state at a youth club at Marjayoun, until today's funeral at the Greek Catholic Church of St Peter in the town.

Major Haddad received a dishonourable discharge from the army after he declared independence for his border strip in 1979, but 10 days before he died Lebanon's state consultative council ruled that the Army should reinstate him. *Obituary, page 10*

Arafat expected to see Husain in Amman

From Our Own Correspondent, Amman

The way has opened for the resumption of the crucial negotiations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization, with the arrival here of Mr Abu Jihad, the military commander of Fatah and the PLO leader closest to Mr Yasser Arafat.

His arrival had been keenly awaited by King Husain and Western diplomats, who noted with satisfaction that last year's failed talks between the King and the PLO leader were signalled in exactly the same fashion.

Most observers now expect Mr Arafat to arrive in Amman soon after the Islamic summit in Morocco, which ends on Thursday.

Heavy security is in operation in anticipation of the Hussein-Arafat talks, which are bitterly opposed by Arab radicals such as Syria, Libya and the violent Palestinian splinter faction led from Damascus by Mr Abu Nidal. New restrictions were recently introduced along the Syrian-Jordanian border.

Mr Jihad set up his office in Amman in September, 1982 in the wake of the PLO's withdrawal from Beirut, but he left after the breakdown of the talks between the King and Mr Arafat.

On his return at the weekend he said he was here "to discuss the situation surrounding the struggle of the people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank."

There was speculation that the PLO's second-in-command would be seeking assurances that last week's recall of the Jordanian Parliament did not mean a renunciation of the 1974 summit ruling that the PLO is "the sole and legitimate" representative of the Palestinian people.

The King, who has been recovering from a bleeding ulcer, is due to spell out his position today when he addresses deputies with his first speech from the throne since 1967.

Tough security in Rabat for Islamic summit

From Godfrey Morrison, Rabat

Leaders of 40 countries gathered in Casablanca today for the opening of a summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization at a time when the Muslim world is beset by many difficulties and provides some of the globe's most intractable political problems.

Though the 650 million inhabitants of the member states share a religion, their political leaders are divided on many issues and two Islamic countries, Iran and Iraq, are at war.

Even the Arab states are split into moderate and radical camps, which do not agree on how to advance the cause of the Palestinians or how best to bring peace to the Middle East.

Few observers expect miraculous political breakthroughs from this summit, the fourth since the organization was founded 15 years ago. However, it has King Hassan of Morocco as its chairman, whose diplomatic skills, proven by the Fez summit of September, 1982, when the Arab countries agreed on a common Middle East peace plan.

Resolutions on the formal agenda, prepared by foreign ministers who have been meeting here, deal with the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Gulf war.

The Middle East draft criticizes the Reagan peace plan because it fails to envisage an independent Palestinian state; the Gulf resolution calls for an end to the war and a peaceful settlement; and the Afghanistan text calls for an end to the Soviet intervention there and the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

The main airport building at Casablanca airport has been closed to the public, helicopters wheel overhead, police checkpoints on all roads to the city have been set up, while the centre of Morocco's commercial capital is completely closed to traffic.

Trade pacts mark Egypt's return to Arab fold

From Christopher Walker, Amman

The increasing pace of Egypt's return to the Arab fold is being assisted by a series of important trade agreements negotiated with Arab governments which formerly supported the economic boycott imposed as punishment for the peace treaty with Israel.

The resumption of Egyptian trade with some of the countries which bitterly denounced Camp David is being seen in diplomatic circles as a precursor of the resumption of diplomatic relations.

Mr Mustafa Kamel Sa'id, the Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, told *The Times* yesterday that he expected the latest protocol, signed between Egypt and Jordan on December 25, to increase trade between the two countries to around £70m a year.

Mr Sa'id was speaking during his second visit to Amman in less than a month - another factor which has underlined the thaw in relations. The significance of his trip was underlined by his visit to King Husain in hospital on Saturday.

The minister is to visit Morocco next month, to sign another trade agreement with far-reaching political implications. He said that an Egyptian-Iraqi protocol signed last year for a flow of goods worth £20m in each direction had already almost been fulfilled.

"The boycott is effectively finished, with the exception of Syria and Libya. It does not really matter anymore," he said.

Under the new agreement, flights between Cairo and Amman will be stepped up and Jordanian goods will be exempted from Egypt's copious import restrictions.

Pretoria's troops out of Angola

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

All South African forces involved in the month-long offensive in Southern Angola have returned to their bases, a Defence Force spokesman said yesterday.

The completion of the withdrawal from the main battle zone more than 100 miles north of the Namibian border was delayed nearly a week by weather conditions which flooded rivers, swept away bridges and turned tracks through the bush into axle-deep muddy quagmires.

South Africa claims to have killed between 300 and 500 Angolan, Cuban and Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization) fighters in the offensive launched on December 6. Code-named Operation Askari, the offensive was designed to counter an expected invasion by up to 1,400 Swapo guerrillas into northern Namibia.

South African losses totalled 21 men killed and an undisclosed number of wounded.

● London posting: Dr Denis Worrall, one of the main architects of South Africa's constitutional reform plan and currently Ambassador to Australia, is expected to be appointed Ambassador in London when Mr Marais Steyn retires.

He has been in Canberra for only 18 months, and his London appointment is being seen as a prelude to his being offered high office in the Government.

Pravda insists Siberian gas is on stream

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper, *Pravda*, yesterday quoted French Government and gas industry officials as confirming that Siberian gas had begun to come on stream. However, it did not comment on suggestions that it was being partly piped through existing networks.

Reporting the inauguration of the pipeline in Surgut, *Pravda* said Russia's powerful potential and patriotism had "made it possible to build the line without overseas machinery".

It also announced that Mr Boris Shcherbina, the Minister for Oil and Gas Construction, had been promoted to Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Shcherbina was responsible for overseeing the construction work.

Meanwhile, Moscow accused the Western press of wrongly linking the death of Mr John Blackadder, a British engineer, with the troubled pipeline and of falsely claiming that the pipeline is not operational.

The controversial Siberian-West European gas pipeline has been dogged by a number of mishaps. Soviet officials have so far acknowledged a fire at a Western-supplied compressor station at Uregol, the Siberian end of the pipeline, and an explosion at Sizran.

Nicaragua promises free elections next year

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Nicaragua has announced detailed proposals for general elections, the absence of which has been one of the Reagan Administration's main criticisms of the Sandinista regime.

The Sandinista Front, whose nine *comandantes* have ruled the country since the revolution in 1979, said the elections early next year would be free and open under a system of proportional representation. There would be one man-one vote by secret ballot for all people aged 18 and over.

All parties will have access to the media and state funds to finance their campaigns.

The electorate will choose a President and Vice-President and a 90-seat National Assembly, both for a period of five years.

● WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration is preparing an urgent package of new military and economic aid to El Salvador, after a series of devastating guerrilla attacks (Christopher Thomas writes).

President Reagan will use the findings of Dr Henry Kissinger's Commission on Central America as justification for a sharp increase in assistance and will seek a compromise with Congress on linking continuing aid to progress on abolishing human rights abuses.

Kohl faces crisis over sacked general

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The affair of General Gunter Kiesling, the German Deputy Commander-in-chief of Nato who was dismissed after accusations that he had been seen in homosexual bars in Cologne, developed over the weekend into a political crisis for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government, after police admitted there could have been a mix-up with another man.

Cologne police said on Saturday they had identified a man who bore a striking resemblance to General Kiesling, and who apparently was known to the Tom Tom bar in Cologne as "Jurgen from the Bundeswehr".

The Ministry of Defence, however, insisted there had been no mistake in the identification of General Kiesling by undercover agents of the military intelligence service. It said he had mixed with criminal elements and had laid himself open to a serious threat of blackmail.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, briefed leaders of the parliamentary defence committee on Thursday, but Herr Erwin Horn, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) representative, said afterwards the evidence was very thin, and investigations had been superficial and negligent.

Herr Wörner is now under considerable pressure from all sides to produce evidence of the general's alleged activities, which led to his being declared a security risk. Criticism is growing of his handling of the affair, and calls for his resignation are becoming louder.

General Kiesling, at present in a Munich hospital after an operation, has again vigorously denied in several interviews that he was a homosexual or had ever visited the bars in question. He challenged Herr Wörner to produce detailed evidence, and asked what had been done to clear up the matter since the original charges against him in September.

The Social Democratic Opposition has demanded a full explanation from Chancellor Kohl, who has shown a marked lack of support for Herr Wörner. The SPD said the Minister had undermined the morale of the German officer corps by giving greater credence to the word of unidentified people in Cologne's homosexual milieu than the word of honour of one of Germany's most senior officers.

Criticism of Herr Wörner from within the coalition Government grew over the weekend, with both the Free Democrats and the Christian Social Union insisting the affair had damaged the Government.

Herr Wörner, however, insisted he had no choice but to dismiss the general. Source close to the Defence Minister said there was evidence other homosexual activity before the general was appointed to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

Police seek owner of blaze hotel

Seoul (AFP) - Police have issued warrants for the arrest of the owner and two directors of a South Korean tourist hotel swept by a fire on Saturday which killed 38 people. Three Japanese and a Taiwan Chinese were among the dead.

The blaze began when a health club attendant on the fourth floor of the Pusan hotel tried to fill a paraffin stove tank when the unit was already alight.

The sprinkler system did not work and the blaze spread quickly to upper floors where more than 100 guests were asleep. The police said most of the hotel staff fled without alerting the guests properly.

Vote for reform in Cameroon

Yaounde (Reuters) - After 25 years of autocratic rule, the people of Cameroon have voted overwhelmingly for cautious democratic reforms offered by President Paul Biya, a French-educated technocrat who was the only candidate in Saturday's presidential poll.

Although the final results will not be known for some days, early returns showed he should win a resounding vote of confidence which will free him to pursue a policy of democratization.

Kashmir clashes

Delhi (AP) - At least four people were confirmed dead yesterday after clashes in Kashmir between police and members of Mr Gandhi's Congress Party who organized a "protest day" against the state government of the National Conference Party.

Alcohol clue

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Beach Boys drummer, Dennis Wilson, had a high level of alcohol in his bloodstream when he drowned last month, a coroner's spokesman said. Wilson's death occurred three days after he had discharged himself from an alcohol treatment programme.

Cablecar blame

Singapore (Reuters) A harbour pilot and the captain of the oil-drilling ship Eniwetok, which a year ago hit a cablecar link between Singapore and Sentosa island and killed seven people, were both mainly responsible for the accident, according to an official inquiry's report.

Art arrests

Rome - Three Italians have been arrested and two more are sought in connexion with the theft from the National Museum in Budapest last November of seven renaissance paintings, including a Raphael Madonna. Budapest police have meanwhile arrested two Hungarians.

Students held

Hongkong (Reuters) - Police in Hongkong blamed "young hooligans" for the riots and looting last week and said nearly a quarter of the 130 arrested were students.

Faithful friend

Reykjavik (AFP) Iceland's Finance Minister, Mr Albert Gudmundsson, has threatened to resign and go into exile if the authorities try to take away his dog. Dog ownership is banned in the Icelandic capital.

Taiwan remains sticking point after Zhao's friendly American visit

From Christopher Thomas and Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, leaves the United States for Canada today, ending an American tour that demonstrated clear progress towards stabilizing Sino-US relations. Mr Zhao, however, strongly emphasized differences between China and America over Taiwan.

"Things are not as satisfactory as I could wish between our two countries," he said. "I hope the United States will choose to abide by the UN Charter and not interfere with China's internal affairs."

He arrived in New York with a convoy of 10 limousines on Saturday after a West Coast visit in which he said that Taiwan should be peacefully returned to the mainland regime. He said the US had no role in any reunification talks "because this is China's internal affair".

Mr Zhao, the highest ranking Chinese official to visit the United States since 1979, was given an enthusiastic greeting in San Francisco, which has the largest Chinese population in the country. There was also a noisy demonstration against him by 800 pro-Taiwanese.

In San Francisco, Mr Zhao gave a warning that the danger of war still hangs over the Pacific region. He wants foreign bases in the area to be dismantled and foreign forces withdrawn.

"The Pacific Ocean is by no means pacific. Superpower rivalry in this region is still intensifying," Mr Zhao said in a speech in San Francisco on Thursday night after three days of talks with President Reagan in Washington.

Mr Zhao said that China and the United States, being big powers on opposite sides of the ocean, had heavy responsibilities in this regard.

"No country should seek hegemony in this region," he said. "The arms race, the nuclear arms race in particular, must be halted. Foreign military bases must be dismantled and foreign military forces withdrawn."

Mr Zhao did not point an accusing finger directly at one country. However, difficult the future might appear, he was confident that peace would eventually replace confrontation and hostility in the world.

While in Washington, Mr Zhao made it clear that despite their developing relations it was impossible for China to establish a comprehensive "strategic partnership" with the United States because of differences between the two nations in some important areas. He also reiterated China's independent foreign policy position but transferred nuclear weapons technology to other countries. This removes one barrier in the way of an accord.

But intensive negotiations on a proposed nuclear cooperation agreement, under which the United States would sell China nuclear energy reactors for peaceful purposes, left difficult nuclear non-proliferation issues to be resolved. American officials welcomed Mr Zhao's pledge that China would not transfer nuclear weapons technology to other countries. This removes one barrier in the way of an accord.

Mr A. W. Clausen, president of the World Bank, said the figures were "sad and disappointing". The new funding level was "gravely inadequate" and all recipient nations would suffer.

He added that agricultural aid programmes for famine-stricken sub-Saharan countries would be reduced, and in some cases India and China would have to borrow money at commercial bank rates to complete industrialization projects.

If the bank's target of a \$12 billion allocation had been achieved India and China would have received about 40 per cent of the total - \$4.8 billion. Instead, Mr Clausen suggested that they might get something under \$3.6 billion.

The new budget finally emerged after three days of talks between donor countries in Washington, ending on Saturday. While the United States refused to increase its contribution, other donors said it would be unfair to expect them to contribute more than 75 per cent of the total budget.

The US contribution has declined steadily over the years to about 25 per cent of the total. Mr Clausen, an American, pointed out that the US accounts for almost 35 per cent of the world's gross national product.

US cash cuts hit aid to the poorest

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The World Bank's aid programme for the poorest nations will be reduced to \$9.6 billion (\$6.3bn) over the next three years substantially less than most donor nations regard as the essential minimum. India, Bangladesh and sub-Saharan African nations will bear the brunt of the cut.

The new figure is the result of a year-long round of talks during which the United States - by far the single biggest contributor - refused to give more than 750m a year to the International Development Association (IDA) - the low-interest arm of the World Bank.

The limitation means that the annual budget will be held to \$3 billion, \$1 billion less than the other 33 developed nation members of the bank agreed was necessary. Over the past four years the IDA distributed an average of \$3.5 billion a year.

The impact of the new curbs will be felt particularly strongly because China has recently joined the World Bank. China is certain to make substantial claims for aid.

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Wealthy Chinese buy way out of Cambodia

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Although large numbers of rich Chinese are being allowed to leave Cambodia if they hand over their property to the authorities before they go, many others are paying cash to guerrillas to smuggle them across the border with their valuables.

Major-General Pichit Kullavanich, whose Thai First Division is responsible for security on the most sensitive section of the Cambodian border, said Chinese were paying guerrillas up to £250 (£180) a head for passage across the border. In the past three months 3,000 to 5,000 of them had tried to slip into refugee camps in Thailand, where they had a chance of security and resettlement in third countries.

A few had managed to get into one UN camp eight miles from the border, but the Thai Army had turned back many more. In one incident two guerrilla guides had been killed and a Thai soldier wounded.

The general said the Chinese were still attempting to cross the border from an encampment just inside Cambodia controlled by one of the non-Communist resistance groups. Many of the Chinese were carrying gold, diamonds and other valuables.

Mr Hun Sen, the Foreign Minister in the Vietnamese-controlled Government of Cambodia, said recently that 61,000 ethnic Chinese remained in the country, 40,000 of them in Phnom Penh. He said they outnumbered the Vietnamese minority by more than 5,000. Cambodia's Chinese population before the Indochina war was about 250,000.

Honouring history: Members of the Royal Grenadier Guards in Corunna. They had reenacted his 310th anniversary.

Merger threatens 100 jobs

From Ian Murray

About 10,000 jobs are expected to be lost as a result of the merger agreed on Friday between the three ailing steel manufacturers, Cockfield-Sambro, Arbed and Sidmar. The deal, agreed during a Belgian-Luxembourg summit in Brussels, is certain to create further bad feeling between Belgium's French and Dutch-speaking communities.

The aim is to make each of the plants specialise in one product and avoid overproduction.

Part of the deal is a Belgian Government guarantee of a stake in the plant in Ghent, controlled by the Government, to block the blocking vote over decisions.

But Leiege, home of the mill-Sambre, is particularly hit by the deal, since the plants specialise in one product and avoid overproduction.

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From Ian Murray

About 10,0

Past notoriety follows
Roman Polanski like a
shadow. His early life was a
Nazi nightmare.
He is now an outlaw
from America.
Yet Clare Colvin finds that
he still yearns just
to make people laugh

Every joy has its price

Paris
Some forms of notoriety are difficult to erase. Seven years after fleeing charges of illegal sex with a 13-year-old girl, Roman Polanski is still the subject of relentless curiosity. Our lunchtime meeting in a smart restaurant near the Champs Elysée illustrated the point. The tables were packed closely together, and our neighbours were already glancing at us speculatively. The manager found us another table upstairs, separated by a double door from a large party of businessmen celebrating the New Year. We sat at a distance from three men discussing something too private for downstairs. Gradually they became interested in us and suddenly, as I mentioned the word *Amadeus* - Polanski had played the role of Mozart in the Paris production of the Peter Shaffer play 18 months earlier - their attention became riveted on our conversation. During moments of hush from the party next door, their ears tuned in to see what they could pick up. I learned to time the more personal questions when the businessmen were in full cry.

What, of course, most intrigued them was not Polanski's career as a film director, but his arrest in the US in 1977 on a charge of rape, later reduced to unlawful sexual intercourse, with the young girl. He was never sentenced because he left the country. This is why he now lives in Paris and has abandoned any hope of directing films in Hollywood. His new autobiography, *Roman*, published by Heinemann, describes the incident in detail, and, understandably, leaves a more sympathetic impression than the newspaper reports. Would the book, I asked, alter minds in America and pave the way for his return?

Not at all, said Polanski. The position was exactly the same. He had left the country while awaiting sentence and if he returned he would be arrested on arrival and held without bail.

"Besides, Hollywood has been the scene of too much grief and tragedy for me, and New York is not the capital of the film industry, so I have not got any desire to return to America. Paris was where I first lived after leaving Poland, and I have always loved being here. I have been able to work from Paris as well."

Interviewing Polanski, the atmosphere is heightened not only by the listeners, but by his own suspicion of journalists. He has the air of a hunted rodent about him, with his sharp nose and wary eyes, and he treats questions defensively. He has reason to do so. After the death of his wife, Sharon Tate, who with her friends were murdered by the crazed Manson "family" of hippies, articles implied that Polanski had brought it on them by meddling in black magic and befriending Hollywood undesirables.

"The ordinary journalist does not have anything against me, but if there is any ambiguity, they do not give anyone any credit. The whole circumstances were so macabre and grotesque. Where there is no answer, so far as the crime is concerned, they start looking for anything and their tiny heads immediately link a film like *Rosemary's Baby* to the personality of the man who created it. If someone



Roman Polanski in Paris: no desire to return to America

makes a film as junkies, they think he must be on drugs if someone makes a film about them, which seems real and accurate, then he must practise it. Murders were so horrendous at night that the thought that he would be a victim could not be better. It was more comfortable that they brought it on themselves.

It is true that Polanski's films, from the earliest, *Frenzy*, to the latest, *The Verdict*, have an atmosphere of menace and foreboding. Again, he is the press exaggerating. He has a funny film (*The Verdict*) and a romantic film (*Tess*). People judge his career for themselves via the National Film Theatre began a Roman Polanski season on Jan 23.

Polanski was attacked and left for dead

With his like *Repulsion*, *Cul de sac*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and *Macbeth*, the label of director fascinated with the darker side of life is likely to remain. Some have tried to explain this quality by pointing to his childhood. Polanski escaped from the Jewish ghetto in Cracow as a boy and lived in hiding with a family of peasants. His parents were taken to Auschwitz where his mother died. He remembers very clearly the early days of the ghetto, the rounding up of his neighbours and family, and his father pushing him through a fence before being marched off to the camp. At the end of the war the horror continued. German corpses were left in the streets and Polish children blew themselves up playing with abandoned explosives. Polanski was attacked and left for dead by a triple murderer, an incident that is echoed in the killing of the landlord in *Repulsion*.

"My early life may seem like a nightmare to anyone who reads about it, but as a child I had no reference to anything else and I just lived through it," he said. "It is not something that haunts me. The only thing that hurt me was the separation from my parents."

What war really means to an individual, first of all, is the separation from loved ones.

He had recently returned from Poland, where he had witnessed his father's death. The old man had been suffering from cancer and did not die easily. "You would think with all the drugs they give them that it would be peaceful, like an opium dream. They do have hallucinations, but it isn't peaceful and the pain is still in them."

His father's death has ended his personal ties in Poland, and he does not intend to return there to work. He had played in *Amadeus* there two years ago, and even that had been a tremendous effort as they had to import all the wigs and makeup. "Making *Knife in the Water*, when the film industry was in better shape than at present, was difficult enough. We need hordes of people and stacks of equipment to make our art. A painter only needs his brushes, paints and canvas. In Poland what one admires about their films is that they are able to complete them at all."

From the book, it is clear that Polanski's volatile Polish temperament did not contribute to easy relations with the American film industry. His search for perfection led to complaints from both actors and backers about the time it took to film a scene. During the filming of *Chinatown* Jack Nicholson kept going to his dressing room during pauses to watch a basketball game on television. Infuriated, Polanski grabbed a heavy mop, charged in on him, smashed the TV set and hurled it out of the dressing room. Nicholson's response matched his for drama. He stripped off his clothes, under the apprehensive gaze of all present, and left the set.

Off stage, Polanski lived his life dramatically too. He had fast-living drinking pals in London and Paris, such as Victor Lowmes and Warren Beatty. There were parties at all hours and teams of girls descending on the Lowmes household. Lowmes and he eventually fell out over the production of *Macbeth* but they were close friends for years, and Polanski's convention even now is flavoured with the sort of archaic slang that Lowmes used in the 1960s, such as the observation, "These guys who run after chicks are desperate hunters for the romance of their lives without even realizing it."

The death of Sharon Tate profoundly coloured his life, undermining his optimism and confidence. He found himself taking on some of his father's traits - his conviction that every joyous experience has its price. He feels that he is unlikely to live permanently with any woman.

"I have difficulties because subconsciously I refer to Sharon. Whenever I meet a person with whom I start to have a closer relationship, I always refer to something that I had already known. I am difficult, not only with women but to them as well. They do not necessarily want me around for longer. There are limits as to how much you can demand from your partner."

While recovering in Switzerland from Sharon's death, he discovered the charms of the younger woman. His chalet in Gstaad was close to the Montesano, a finishing school for young ladies. The girls, aged between 16 and 19, took to sneaking out of their dorms after lights out for forbidden

visits to the Polanski chalet. Some simply wanted to talk and listen to music. As he had found with so many girls their age, he said, they had "untapped reserves of intelligence and imagination".

"I have a great relationship with very young women or women of a certain age. I do not have such a good relationship with women in their 30s. Old ladies love me and I have great fun with them, and always did, although there is no sex involved. Too big a difference in age, whichever way it goes, bothers people. When you say you like very young girls people start getting prudently suspicious. The trouble with women, when they get to around 21 or 22, they become very career conscious. They realize they are going to be kicked out of their nests and are much more aware of the difficulties and problems of the future than men of the same age. What I like about younger women is that they don't use sex appeal to further their social position or career. When they get to 21 they begin to feel very insecure and then, once they have placed themselves, it passes."

He is clearly sensitive about age himself. "I am at the age I don't like to be reminded of," he said. (He was 50 last August). "Since 30, I stopped enjoying my birthdays, although strangely enough I have always felt 30 years old ever since." I suggested that a man of his age should feel some responsibility about taking to bed a teenage girl, for at that age, whatever sexual experience they claimed, they were not entirely aware of what they were doing. He did not appear to take the point.

Blurred line between fantasy and reality

The girl about whom there had been the court case, he said, had had previous sexual experience and was not in any way a reluctant partner.

"At a moment like that you don't really think, because everyone else does it. It was wrong of me to do it because of the law in California. But do I believe it is morally wrong what two people do simply because of their age? I cannot believe it is wrong. She was not unskilled in sexual matters and physically she was so mature. But if there is a 55 miles speed limit on American motorways you have to respect it. If you drive faster and you are caught, you know you are wrong to drive above that speed limit, even though you also know that the speed limit is ridiculously low."

Polanski's decision to flee while his case was being considered, rather than trust to American justice, may have been unwise. But Polanski, who had already had a taste of 45 days in jail, refused to return. Even the fact that Dino De Laurentiis has already offered him a million dollars contract to direct a remake of *Hurricane* didn't change his mind. In Paris he reestablished himself as a director with *Tess*, seen by some in its gentle, lyrical expression as a bid for respectability. But Polanski's affair with the star, Nastassia Kinski, when she was only 15, fuelled the outrage of those who, as he humorously suggests, saw him as "an evil, profligate dwarf".

The difficulty of getting *Tess* released



Mia Farrow in Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby*



Polanski as Mozart in *Amadeus* in Warsaw



Polanski, Coppola and Nastassia Kinski

moreover...
Miles Kington

All aboard the lawyers' gravy train

At enormous expense we have hired a solicitor to answer your questions about the law. Ready when you are, sir.

If Sir David Napley's fees are anything to go by, solicitors can make a fortune. How do I go about becoming a solicitor?

A solicitor writes: To the layman, no doubt, it seems a lot of money. But you've got to say to yourself: a lot compared to what? It's not much compared to the annual turnover of a big multi-national corporation, for instance, or a country like Holland. Sir David gets paid less than the Queen and receives absolutely nothing from the Civil List for his exhausting public appearances. I think we hear too much about solicitors' money. Do you ever read about firms of solicitors being rich enough to go into tax exile or even buy their own independent nuclear deterrent? I think we should get our facts straight before we speak out.

As part of his fees for the recent Helen Smith inquiry, Sir David Napley's firm charged £82-an-hour for his travel to and from Leeds, over and above the train fare. Does this cover the work he did en route or the work he was forced to miss by travelling?

A solicitor writes: In my opinion, there is far too much petty jealousy in Britain today. If we read that someone has earned £82-an-hour just for travelling, our response is to try to take it away from him. But shouldn't we be saying: how can I get £82-an-hour? Where's your ambition, all of you? I, for instance, have a small solicitor's office in the compartment of my commuter train and get masses of work done on the way to London - and I claim it against tax! Just routine things like wills and conveyancing. Matter of fact, I once sold the compartment in error, but that's another story. There's a priest travelling on the same train who has rigged up his compartment as a confessional. Another bloke pulls the blinds down and shows some sort of video films to paying customers, while I believe on the train before there is a girl who runs a hair salon in the lavatory. Oh, the possibilities are endless.

A funny thing happened to me the other day, which I'd like your comments on. I was selling my house via a solicitor for an agreed price of £40,000, but when it was all completed I found I had sold it to the solicitor for £450. Apparently there's nothing I can do about this. Even the Law Society won't take action. Is this right?

Absolutely wrong! I have looked into your case and you are quite right - there were one or two irregularities. The Law Society agrees with me that the solicitor in question should be dealt with. There's no point in bringing in the ultimate sanction - a quiet reprimand - but it has been decided to ban him from the Society's dining room for a month. Believe me, for solicitors that is punishment enough.

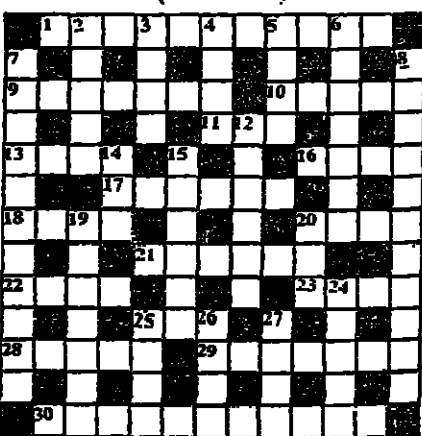
As a matter of interest, what are you getting paid for this?

Why is everyone obsessed with money, for heaven's sake? All I am interested in is the law, and everything else comes second. The beauty of a well-shaped will, the tracery of a delicately phrased contract - this to me is poetry. This is its own reward. But, since you ask, I am on £200-an-hour for doing this column.

I think David Napley is a real dish. Have you ever met him? What's he really like? What's his favourite group?

Curiously enough, I did meet him once in a train going up to York, or at least I stopped at his table and chatted to him for five minutes. He seemed very nice indeed. I was moderately surprised some time later to get a bill from his office for consultation on weather, geography, and hotels in York, but as it was only for £40 I paid it unhesitatingly. I believe his favourite group is the Law Society.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 249)



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Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The British Home at Streatham cares for over 100 incurable people of all ages

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TOMORROW

The art of Glen Baxter

MONDAY PAGE

Less cheese is eaten in Britain than almost anywhere in Europe and Robin Young finds that we are losing our pride in the traditional local tastes

Chalking up the case for cheese

We British have an unrivalled reputation for hard cheese, but our dairy industry has shown every sign of going soft. As a nation we are buying more cheese than ever before, but our consumption is only a pining over a quarter of a pound per person a week. It is less than that of any other nation in Europe except the Irish. The French eat nearly three times as much, the Germans and Belgians more than twice as much. Though the British household's average consumption has increased by nearly a third over the past ten years, we are in the cellar of the international cheese cutters' league.

Worse, it is soft speciality cheeses, and not the typical hard English varieties, that are the fastest growing element of our £680 million a year cheese market. Sales of brie, in danger of running all over supermarket shelves, spread by a third last year alone, while cheddar, which still dominates the British market with nearly two thirds of the total cheese sales, showed little change.

Dairy Crest, the commercial arm of the Milk Marketing Board, has put its big push behind soft cheeses designed to counter increasingly popular demand for Continental speciality textures and flavours. Lymeswold, Britain's carefully moulded attempt to pre-empt blue brie, now accounts for one-two-hundredth of all cheese purchased, an appropriate fraction for something which was, quite spuriously, claimed to be Britain's first 'new' cheese for 200 years.

Now Dairy Crest are test marketing a second new English soft cheese in the TV South area, with advertising equivalent to a national spend of £1.2 million. Melbury is a mild white mould-ripened cheese intended to appeal to those who already are, or might soon become, brie and camembert eaters.

Its 'Englishness' is said to reside in its 'unique loaf shape' which underlines the link with familiar blocks of traditional English cheese but also has practical benefits for both the retailer and the housewife. In other words it is brick-shaped, like a piece cut from a block for a supermarket pre-pack. It is also brightly wrapped in printed gold foil with labels showing the cheese against an English country scene, all in the hope that the Continentals have missed a trick by wrapping their white moulds rather plainly.

Cheeses have inevitably changed as agricultural custom altered and retailing practice evolved. The

determining factors for British cheeses in modern times have all tended in the same direction—standardization. The advent of the industrial farm and the supermarket pre-pack are the environmental factors which play the greatest part in conditioning British cheese today.

Eight leading groups of supermarket stores handle nearly half the cheese the nation buys. Indeed just three retailers—Sainsbury, Tesco, and Asda—alone sell more than a quarter of the total. Four-tenths of the nation's cheese is pre-packed. Not surprisingly the Milk Marketing Board has encouraged even farm-house cheesemaking in block form, convenient for the needs of supermarket cutting machinery. More than seven-tenths of farm cheese is now made in blocks, and of all English cheese, less than a fortieth is now made in the clothbound cylinders which would still be considered traditional and which have proved, in the Board's own blind tasting, to be more fully flavoured.

Little of our cheese is farm made anyway. The bulk of manufacture (six-tenths) is undertaken by the Milk Marketing Board itself. Express Dairies do a quarter, and the Cooperative Wholesale Society a tenth. That leaves just five per cent coming from independent farms and cream-

Cheddaring can be done anywhere with any milk

eries. Yet despite these factors, pressing cheese into standardized brands and packs, our supreme cheese name—cheddar—can be found on a wide variety of products which may differ among themselves more than would French cheeses with distinctive names.

The name of cheddar was given away to all the world. "Cheddaring" is the technical term for piling the curds into masses and turning them as they drain. It can be done anywhere, with milk of any sort, and the cheese can be called cheddar (or indeed almost anything). Just over seven-tenths of our cheddar comes from somewhere in England and Wales, but virtually none from Cheddar itself. There, in 1980 local residents opposed the resumption of cheesemaking on the grounds that the dairy might smell.

A tenth of our cheddar is Scottish, another tenth Irish, leaving 14,700

tonnes which come variously from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, France, Holland, Denmark, Germany, and even Romania. Market research has suggested that only 15 per cent of customers know that they could be buying imported cheese when they purchase cheddar.

In blind sampling, organized with the Attwood consumer panel of 450 housewives regularly receiving cheese bought in representative retail outlets around Britain, British housewives judge pre-packed cheese nowadays to be significantly better than that sold loose. Though traditional presentation and cutting to order has strong attractions, aluminium foil and vacuum packs permit a longer shelf life in the shops and provide a more reliable product.

For the same blind tests, commissioned from Attwood by the English Country Cheese Council, show that British housewives do prefer British cheese. When not told the cheeses' origin, the panel of housewives rate three-quarters of British samples good to excellent. Only just over half the pieces imported from Europe achieve similar ratings. There can be no doubt that the reputation of England's premier cheese has been

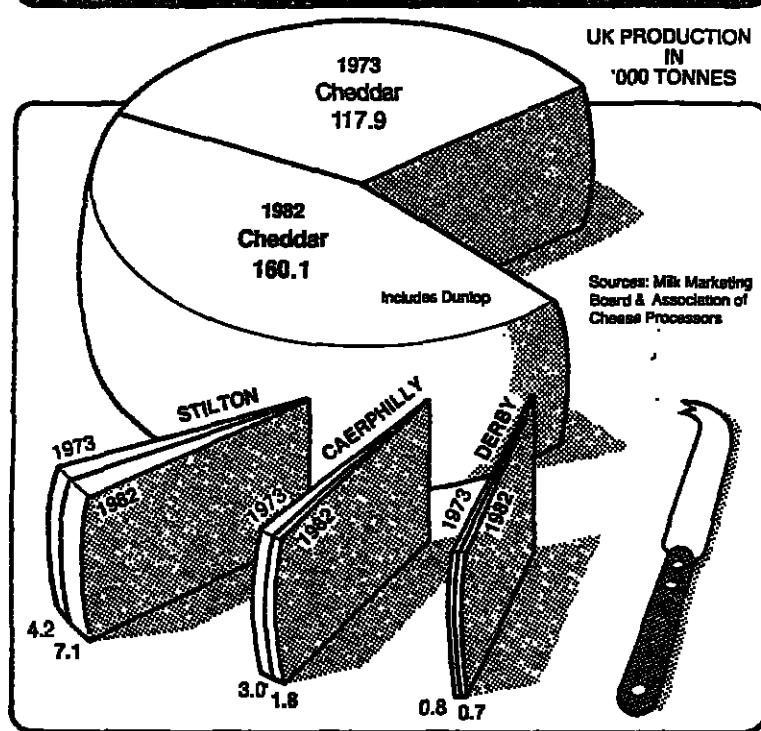
damaged by inferior foreign imports sold as cheddar and supposed, for lack of any statement of national origin, to be English by default.

Hence the Cheese Mark. Launched six months ago, the Cheese Mark is a stamp of approval available only to registered producers and packers in England and Wales. It is the first independent quality grading system since the 1950s when that run by the National Association of Creamery Proprietors (NACEPE) broke down in the face of supermarkets' preference for their own quality controls. To date the scheme has involved three former NACEPE cheese graders making monthly visits to creameries to check that graded cheeses reach what would have been the NACEPE "selected" grade. Eighty to 85 per cent of production is expected to qualify. In the New Year there will be five graders at work, and visits will become fortnightly, and later the scheme will be extended to other varieties of English cheese—starting with double Gloucester, red Leicester and Derby.

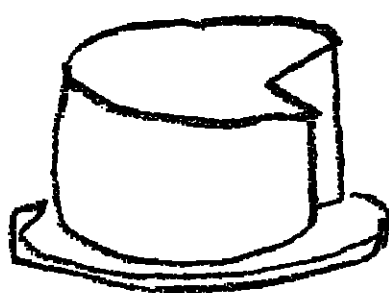
The scheme, backed by £2 million-worth of advertising in 1983 and £3 million in 1984 and costing £500,000 a year to run, is showing

John Grimwade

CHEESE CHANGES



I'm very depressed by the increase in Brie sales...



Oh-hard cheese...



ENGLISH CHEESE

opened cheese, the for the larger sales... are that they... to the trade and... consumer. The... followed their market... by customers who... discriminatingly for... but as a... contained as cheaply as

we have reached a... our English cheddar... of one per cent can... to be completely... is, made in cloth... of unpasteurized... ly mature. It is not... has suffered. The... al cheeses - tra... other than cheddar... ly localized sales... mitted in the trade... part they no longer... nitive character... could be associated... survival owes most... ly, conservative... of British cheese... long-standing... foods.

able away a fifth of... e, but account for... Lancashire. Four-

name of... n is... protected

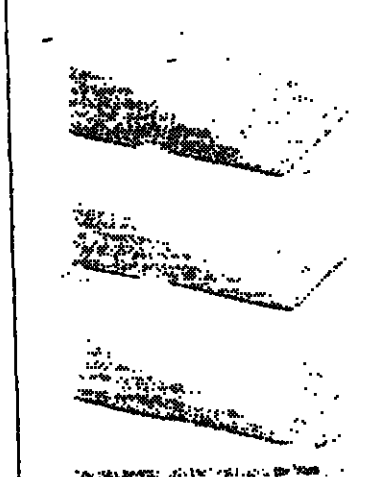
ire production is... Lancashire border... Lancastrians are... Lancashire dull... have been falling... English territorial... stilton whose name... ed. Stilton is a... mark, belonging to... Lancashire, Derby... and the... made in cylindrical... applied pressure and... milk. But the milk... and, always is... Bassett Dairy.

which other tra... of English cheeses... exploited was... the method which... disposing of sub... They went to the... were sold as blue... variety that was... fact commercially... were they sold... round dealer than... the same shop. The... ecuted, and dis... no case to answer... ce of the cheese's... luded.

Sh... tively traditional... high quality can... include:... bridge... Chiffley, Jernyn... n, Beccles Road... Chiffley... Chiffley, Reading.

The... Cheese Book, by... paperback, £2.50... inclusive directory... onal cheeses.

WITHOUT THE CHEESE MARK COULD YOU PICK THE BEST CHEDDAR?



Evolution of a hard sell: in the fifties (top) it was enough to murmur that it was English. By the sixties, (centre) our cheese was linked to the potent image of discriminating taste and 'naturalness'. In the eighties (above), the buyer wants the quality certified and English cheddar needs distinguishing from its foreign competitors.

TALKBACK

Safety in numbers

From Dr Arnold Bloom, 101 Harley Street, W1

There are some points in Nancy Waller's "First Person" (January) that need comment. Purification of insulin has been a steady process since its introduction for the treatment of diabetes in 1922. The present commercial insulin is very pure indeed. The reason for the changeover to U100 (ie 100 units of insulin to each millilitre of fluid) was not for reasons of purity but entirely for reasons of safety. The fact that two different strengths had previously been available (U40 and U80) had led to numerous documented accidents and the British Diabetic Association instigated the transfer to a single strength, with syringes appropriately marked, to avoid these distressing and dangerous mix-ups. America, Canada and Australia all use U100 insulin. The rest of Europe still uses U40.

From Sabina Grinling, 2 Honton Mansions, Flood Street, SW3

Thank goodness Nancy Waller wrote about U100 insulin. It's all too depressingly true. The hypo symptoms of U100 are, at first experience, unrecognisable, and they do have an alarming paralysing effect. Like Nancy Waller I am on a diet which consists largely of Mars bars and Coca Cola and I consume them as an insurance policy—just in case—and that is bad for long-term complications, but not as bad as the embarrassment of passing out in public, or the danger of passing out in private.

Having been on one injection a day since I was seven years old, and having lived a trouble-free 39 years I am now told that two injections a day are recommended, using a purer insulin. I am neither a pin cushion nor a cannibal and object on both counts. Apparently, all this is because diabetics were muddling up their doses. Could this be because doctors refer to eight marks on the old syringes as 32 units and four marks as 16 units? Can this country really afford to equip every diabetic with a new syringe for such an idiotic reason?

Penny Perrick

In-house training for the do-it-yourself husband



The wise words of Mrs Nellie Stephenson, chairman of Humberston Social Services Committee, might as well have been written on water. Last week Mrs Stephenson said that wives should stop pampering their husbands so that they will be able to fend for themselves should the need ever arise.

Quite so, Mrs Stephenson. What's more, there should be a law against it raining on Sunday and the trains should run on time.

Wives don't "pamper" their husbands by taking sole charge of the cooking, cleaning, child-rearing, present-buying, household accounting, and holiday booking because it gives them a lovely fulfilled sort of feeling.

The book is so clear that even a man can understand it

They do it because, in the end, it's easier to do everything themselves rather than threaten, plead, bully and deal with daft questions such as "what kind of Brussels sprouts do you want me to buy?" which is the lot of any woman who tries to get a little help on occasion.

However, Mrs Stephenson says that she has now trained her husband (How? By pretending he was a new puppy?) "to cook and be more domesticated" and this has inspired me to devise a man-training programme of my own. I haven't had time to apply it yet. I've been too busy pampering, with gritted teeth, the man for whom the training programme is meant for.

● Cooking a meal: We all thought the sausages you put on the grill last September were cooked to perfection. Well done. However, in order to prepare for a time when you might have to cook for yourself on a more regular basis (an

unlikely occurrence, I agree), it will be necessary to extend your repertoire. This is achieved by reading something called a "cookery book." The *New Times* Cookbook is so clearly set out that even a man can understand it. It is advisable to regard recipes as mere food preparation, not some kind of sacred ritual. It is perfectly all right to use white pepper corn rather than black if white ones are what happen to be in the larder. The absence of black should not provide the excuse to abandon the whole project in a huff. That way, you could starve to death.

● Keeping records: I know that some primordial instinct in the soul of every man tells him that filing cabinets, address books, appointments diaries and reminder pads are all enemies determined to remove all joy and spontaneity from daily life. However I do not find it very spontaneous or joyful to be constantly asked for Old Jimmy's phone number, or when your dentist appointment is, or whether I can lay my hands on that letter which came some time last month which you could have sworn was in the top pocket of your grey suit but it seems to have vanished, most extraordinary.

This does rather let us in for a very spontaneous but not very joyful exchange of sharp words, especially on those occasions when I discover that you have arranged to be in Manchester on the very evening that I intend giving a dinner party for twelve. It would be very helpful if you were to take a more positive attitude towards the whole question of domestic admin.

May I perhaps remind you that when taking telephone messages, it is not enough merely to write down the caller's number, adding their name is essential. Such messages should be placed in a prominent place near the telephone rather than scrawled on yesterday's newspaper which happens to be lying on the bedroom floor. Also, documents such as income tax demands should be filed, appropriately, under "Income Tax Demands" after they have been dealt with, rather than before in the hope that they might go away.

Widowers seem to land knee-deep in loving ladies

I could go on, but I can't convince myself of the necessity of a man-training scheme. Mrs Stephenson's main concern was that widowers should be able to look after themselves. I have never met a widower who's had to. Widowers seem to have a thoroughly beguiling, helpless quality that lands them knee-deep in loving ladies anxious to lead them into a state of second-married bliss before the fellows have time to learn the rudiments of boiling themselves an egg.

● I am not surprised that the East German student who escaped to The West last week went straight back home again when his grandmother told him to. My own grandmother is 89 and I have still to learn how to say no to her. She is by no means a fearsome old crone: she is, in fact, a perfect duck. There just seems to be this unspoken agreement between us that she is always right. Her inquiries are something to be dreaded. "You're a socialist, aren't you?" she accused me recently. I looked at the carpet and began to mumble something about the social wage. My grandmother cut me short with a crisp "Well, try not to be." There's just no answering her back.

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WHAT IS THATCHERISM NOW?

The political scene, as parliament returns for the new year, resembles a moving film that has suddenly stopped, its leading figures frozen in ambiguous postures giving no clue to the development of the plot. Each of the political parties has its reasons for optimism; each faces dangers which ought to give it cause for serious concern.

In the long run, the shape of British politics will be determined by Labour's success or failure in making itself again a party which the electorate is willing to accept as a serious candidate for power. That requires, as its precondition, not any regret that Mr Tony Benn was selected as Labour's candidate for Chesterfield last night, but the eventual extirpation from Labour politics of the kind of posture known as Bennisism. Labour must, that is to say, discard the tag-bag of leftist, Militant and Trotskyite attitudes to which Mr Benn, from his position inside the party's left-wing establishment, has been willing to give shelter and protection. He has persistently used this technique to acquire power in the party machine for himself and his friends. But the practical effect has been to deprive his party of power and influence in the country.

Mr Neil Kinnock, himself the candidate of the party's legitimate left, makes no bones about the need for some revisionism. Questioned on television recently about the uncertainty surrounding Labour's shifting position on a number of subjects, from membership of the European Community to defence policy, compared with the certainties it seemed to offer on June 9, Mr Kinnock had a simple answer: "Well, we got beaten, didn't we?" Labour policies, he admitted, have to be re-examined, and presumably to be moderated, and the question is by how much, and whether the party can make itself sufficiently attractive to the electorate without again unleashing civil war and political incoherence.

What is called for in the Labour Party is something not far short of a quiet revolution. This, presumably, was what Mr Roy Hattersley implied when he recently predicted, in an address to the Fabian Society's centenary school, that the influence of the unions on the Labour Party, and on society generally, would decline, and that a "coalition of ideas" should replace the coalition of interests in which the unions have been dominant. If, as he seemed to say, the unions cannot indefinitely be relied on to provide the bulk of Labour's finance, or indeed, to protect it from the left by their votes, Labour can only survive by becoming a party of much wider individual support. In other words, it must appeal to the public in precisely the ways that Bennisism has sought to prevent.

Inevitably, however, Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley are engaged on a long haul and the outcome is unpredictable. Their success or failure will largely determine whether the Liberal and SDP Alliance will have a future. Labour's success in clawing back public support (as measured by the opinion polls) from the Alliance since the

election may in part be due to public awareness of the growing tension in the relationship between the top-heavy Social Democrats led by Dr David Owen, and the sprawling and mushy Liberal grassroots which Mr David Steel tries to govern. But it is principally because, in Mr Kinnock's honeymoon period, Labour has stopped tearing itself apart by the simple device of saying nothing that the Alliance has lost ground.

Labour, however, cannot continue to say nothing indefinitely, and the brutal fact is that the future of the Alliance depends in the end on what precisely Labour has to say. Meanwhile, in the shorter term, the future of both opposition groupings, not to mention the Conservatives themselves, will hang very largely on how Mrs Thatcher's government performs in the next year or so.

Since the general election, the government has presented a distinctly uneasy aspect. Its backbenchers are not happy with it, and its public image has been faltering and blurred. It does not look like a government which enjoyed a remarkable electoral victory six months ago. In part, this is the consequence of an early election fought on an appeal for a "doctor's mandate" with very little spelt out to the electorate, except for the two broad commitments to deal with local government (the abolition of the Greater London Council and Metropolitan Counties) and rate-capping. The details were left to be thought out later, and both issues have involved it in diversionary skirmishing with significant sections of its own supporters. The probability is that in committee it will have to retreat on the general, as distinct from the selective, powers of rate-capping, the bill to impose which has its second reading tomorrow.

But none of this is the essence of Mrs Thatcher's problem which is rather that, on the essential questions of economic management, the government gives the impression either of having lost its momentum or of having decided that it must settle for something well short of what Mrs Thatcher seemed to promise in the way of reducing the size of the public sector and also the burden of taxation.

Yesterday, in a long "Week-end World" interview on Independent Television, Mr Brian Walden put the question to her whether this was so, and taken together all her answers admitted only one interpretation. Although public expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product is not lower but slightly higher than when Mrs Thatcher first took office (an increase she could legitimately explain by the depression we have been through) her promise now is not to reduce the public sector but simply to "hold public expenditure" and, as she put it, let growth go where it can.

While holding public expenditure, the Prime Minister simply looks (as have so many of her predecessors) to a search for efficiency within the state's welfare services to produce better value for money. At the same time, when she was asked whether she agreed more with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, that cutting

taxes must have a very high priority, and was essential, or with the Lord Privy Seal, Mr John Biffen, who seemed to give them a lesser priority, her words seemed to put her closer to Mr Biffen than to Mr Lawson, though she denied there was a difference.

Mr Walden was therefore entitled to ask her bluntly: "Are you a Thatcherite?" to which she answered that she was. But in what sense? Nobody should withhold from the Prime Minister credit and admiration for what she achieved in keeping the government on course to cut public spending and borrowing against the pressure of critics in the Cabinet (now on the backbenches) who wanted her to spend more, partly for the sake of political popularity. The achievement of Thatcherism is real and great; but where does it go from here?

Of course, Mrs Thatcher is right when she implies that, looking at all the spending programmes individually, the government's commitments are such that it is impossible to cut public spending further. Just after the election, the government got itself into hot water because it wrongly gave the impression that it might cut health service functions. Its problem is that, since the state has taken on responsibility for the health care of the mass of the people, it cannot simply slash at the standards of the services it manages.

But this does not free it from the need to be far more radical in thinking about the shape and size of the welfare state and on how it should be financed. The question over Thatcherism is not whether Mrs Thatcher is a Thatcherite so much as why Thatcherism seems not to entail re-thinking (rather than holding or cutting) the welfare state's expenditure; why it is not working towards a plan for re-appraising public spending?

The government may also face a narrower financial problem in the next few months. At the end of the old year, it seemed that the pressures on sterling were all external, resulting from an artificially strong dollar and the movement of funds to the United States, attracted by the high rate of interest there. Now there are signs of an increase in money supply here in response to internal consumer demand which, if it were to continue, would demand either a temporary increase in interest rates or higher taxation. Mrs Thatcher is determined to avoid higher interest rates for fear of damaging recovery, and that is understandable. But in the long run, the fear of renewed inflation would be more damaging to recovery than an interest rate adjustment.

Having successfully fought off inflation in her first term, Mrs Thatcher must be firm in maintaining that advantage in her second. That requires a planned and radical strategy for the public sector and taxation. This is what is missing now, but it is not too late to devise one. Of course, Mrs Thatcher is a Thatcherite; let us take that for granted. But she must tell the country what precisely Thatcherism means, apart from holding the front where it is, in her government's second stage.

SELLING BRITAIN SHORT

It has never been easy to state in one sentence the purpose of the nation's official body for the propagation of Britishness. But the definition produced by Sir Anthony Parsons, Mrs Thatcher's foreign affairs adviser until last month, is the best attempt so far. The British Council, he said, exists "to create anglophiles in foreign countries". As a former diplomat he even toyed with heresy, wondering aloud which would cause more damage to British interests, the closure of an embassy or a British Council office.

As Sir Anthony and fellow members of the Council's board prepare to celebrate the institution's half-century in 1984, there is cause for a degree of self-congratulation. It has progressed mightily since its foundation in 1934 as a riposte to the Nazi and Fascist propaganda with which Germany and Italy were flooding the world.

It is wholly in keeping with the nature of the country whose values it is seeking to propagate that the Council should persistently experience more difficulty with its image at home than overseas, where anglophile foreigners cannot have enough of its language training, its technical and cultural output. Sir John

Burgh, its Director-General, has admitted publicly that the Council's most difficult problem is convincing people in Britain that its work is important to them.

In terms of the higher economics and politics, the British Council has weathered a stormy decade fairly successfully. In 1977 the Think Tank's *Review of Overseas Representation* recommended its abolition and the dispersal of its work to other Government departments or agencies. The Foreign Office, its bureaucratic patron and paymaster, fought that assault off. In the same year Dr David Owen became Foreign Secretary with a pronounced animus against the Council. By the end of his time at the Foreign Office he was converted, convinced that as Britain's economy weakened and its diplomatic clout became more enfeebled, its cultural strengths grew. He believed that the Council's efforts, particularly in language teaching, were of immense value and had, in the long-term, a tangible commercial spin-off.

Despite Dr Owen's sympathy, the Council was considerably affected by recent administrative austerity. Since 1979 its budget has been cut by 18 per cent in real terms and its London-

appointed staff by 19 per cent. In 1981 it had its own equivalent of a Rayner investigation conducted by Lord Seebom. As a result, it reviewed its priorities and management systems.

Last year the Government decided that a period of stability for the Council was in order. Activities would be sustained at their present level. As is often the way, November's Public Expenditure White Paper did not quite provide the cash needed to fulfil that ambition. At £75.4 million the Council's budget is £2.6 million short of what it needs in 1984-85 if its efforts are not to be scaled down still further. The average inflation rate in the 81 countries in which the council operates is some eight per cent, compared to about five per cent expected in Britain.

There is a secret Whitehall protocol which, in principle, covers that differential, known as the Rowlinson-Palmer agreement after the officials who devised it. But Sir Geoffrey Howe has still to persuade Mr Lawson to honour it. The Treasury should do so; the figures are derisory compared to the swollen domestic votes, and the return is marginally more in the national interest.

Rates for the job in local government

From the Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council

Sir, As the spotlight falls upon Chesterfield, can it be used to illustrate the folly and injustice of the Government's efforts to place fetters on the historic powers of local authorities to raise their own revenues?

In its simplest terms, since 1979 the Government's policy of creeping controls over rates has been to reduce the block grant to local authorities, so compelling them to levy higher rates to maintain services, and then to use those increases to justify the rate-capping legislation.

In Chesterfield's case, over the last four years, the borough council has increased its expenditure at below the rate of inflation (49 per cent as compared with a retail price index increase of 55 per cent) but nevertheless the reduction in grant by 20 per cent has necessitated an increase by 133 per cent in the rates levied by this council.

All such increase was imposed before the present financial year when, by dint of hard saving, this council's rate was held steady. I cannot forecast the level of the rate for 1984/85 but, if it were again held steady, only by means of reductions in services, the local authority would none the less again be penalised by a significant grant reduction.

Day by day, as the Government produces more arguments to support its position, they are demolished by the advocates of local government, ably supported by *The Times* and the *Financial Times*. Can I help to demolish the two latest in the Government's armoury?

It is now said by Mr Jenkin, and parroted by Jack Bruce-Gardyne,

that we should not pay too heed to arguments based on democracy because many electors do not pay rates. Thus the protectors of the butchers next step in their argument presumably to say that at national level the voices of electors who do not pay income should be ignored.

Of course, the slogan "no tax without representation" cannot be reversed if democracy is to prevail. And it is those with the smallest incomes who are suffering from the reductions in services at the local level, as well as at national.

Secondly, Mr Jenkin is saying that he will be obliged to resign if the Rates Bill is not carried. This should be recognised for what it is - an appeal to personal sentiment and sympathy. In there is no convention that a minister concerned should resign when Parliament, after mature reflection, declines to carry into effect a hastily conceived manifesto commitment of the majority party.

If the Prime Minister and his ministers can manage to bring heel sufficient majorities members of Parliament and peers carry the Bill their dictatorial methods in so doing will be but small foretaste of the methods they will use to bring the local authorities to heel in the future.

Orwell, how clearly you prophesied, March on 1984.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. FLANAGAN, Leader,
Chesterfield Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.

Sellafield discharge

From Ms Lesley Abdele

Sir, I do not think Patrick Jenkin (January 5) should leap into print too quickly each time fears are aroused by released nuclear contaminants either in the sea or air. The fact is, scientists do not know how dangerous radiation is in its various forms.

The recent payment to relatives of past workers who have died from cancer after working in the nuclear industry indicates we are in a period of ex post facto determinants. This cannot make everyone in or near a nuclear power station worried.

Again, it is not known what a standard limit is in bodily organs without knowing where the energy has been absorbed. The difference in microdistribution of radiation energy may cause a given absorbed dose to differ in biological effect by a factor of 20 or more, depending on the type of radiation.

External radiation with a relatively short penetrating range, such as alpha particles, does not penetrate the skin. Internal radiation with a

relatively short penetrating range will be fully absorbed in the organs unless the decaying nuclide is close to its surface.

To make it even more difficult for the Secretary of State or anyone else to gauge the damage or trace the origin of the cancer, there is the matter of defining radiation doses. They are defined in terms of the energy deposited per gramme of tissue (ergs over grammes). So the definition of irradiated volume greatly affects the calculation of the dose. An intelligent application (always open to argument) must be made through applying principles of micro and macrodosimetry. And to make it more complicated, it would ideally be necessary to ascertain the volume of specific types of tissue in which radiation has been absorbed.

Many current radiation protection standards limit doses to specific bodily organs. But you cannot ascertain compliance without knowing where the energy has been absorbed.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY ABDELE,
55 Mablethorpe Road, SW6.

Humbug on smoking

From the Director of ASH

Sir, Mr Levin calls me a fanatic (December 22). While the sophist tries he employs to make his point and the fact that he used a whole edition of his column to do so might allow me to hurl back the same mud. I should prefer a more peaceful solution. For a modest £8, or half that if he becomes a pensioner or unemployed, Mr Levin can now join ASH's new supporters' scheme.

Along with a steady stream of people who are concerned by the damage smoking causes to health or annoyed by the nuisance of other people's smoke, he will learn a lot from the literature he will periodically receive. He will realise that there is a question of injustice involved: most smokers start smoking when they are children; and by the time they are adults, most want

to give up but cannot - they are trapped in their habit and one in four will be killed by it.

That is not freedom and trying to serve the majority of smokers who want to give up their disastrous habit and to prevent others from acquiring it, is far from fanaticism.

On August 1, 1984, *The Times* ran a leader of which Mr Levin might be proud. Those branded as fanatics at that time were the public health campaigners trying to introduce sanitary improvements to control the epidemic of cholera which caused about the same rate of premature death then as smoking does today. Looking back on it now, Mr Levin's article seems even more reassuring.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON, Director,
ASH (Action on Smoking and Health),
5-11 Mortimer Street, W1,
December 23.

Free credit

From Mr E. H. Bateman

Sir, May I please reply for the free-sheet press, recently savaged in your correspondence.

Through these new mines of information, I have recently been introduced to two outstanding fellow-residents of this district: one a young man of 20 recently capped for the Ryder Cup; the other a veteran journalist with many scoops to his credit who has been in the front line of news gathering around the world for over half a century - he saw the Reichstag fire in 1933, and in 1953 he climbed 20,000 feet to score another first with news of the conquest of Everest.

Last week I read of an oil-well being drilled only a few miles

beyond the boundary of our parish, and to-day of the ordinance survey range-finding with sophisticated electronic equipment more accurately and much more quickly than with the traditional steel tape.

Furthermore I now know how to obtain pre-publication revisions of large-scale street-plans outdated by demolition and re-development.

Congratulations to the able editors and contributors of the news items in these free-sheet titles - we are fortunate in having two here - and thanks to the advertisers who finance them. We do not have to read all the ads, even in 1984.

Yours faithfully,
E. HUGH BATEMAN,
2 Howards Lodge,
Mount Zion,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Needs in Kampuchea

From Mr Michael Harris

Sir, I have read with interest George Walden's article on Kampuchea ("When it's best to compromise," January 7), and his critical comments on Oxfam's report, *The poverty of diplomacy: Kampuchea and the outside world*. As Mr Walden says, it is our job to get aid where it is most needed and our first priority must be to help those in greatest need.

For over four years since the news first broke in 1979 of the terrible suffering of the people of Kampuchea Oxfam has been helping on the ground with emergency and longer term development work there. We have maintained a permanent office in Phnom Penh and so (unlike her Majesty's Government) have enjoyed continuous access to first hand, up-to-date information from inside Kampuchea on the needs of its people.

We have been impressed by the efforts of the Kampuchean people to rebuild their shattered country with virtually no help from the outside world. They continue to live in fear of the return of the brutal Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge army. A fear which is evident to anyone who spends time in that unfortunate country.

Contrary to the somewhat mis-

leading impression given in Mr Walden's article, the British Government currently gives no aid to the people inside Kampuchea. At the recent UN donor conference HM Government pledged no future help despite the increasingly desperate need.

Last October Typhoon Georgia ravaged some of Kampuchea's richest rice-growing areas and the rice shortfall for 1984 is now expected to be some 300,000 tonnes, one third of normal production.

While much useful assistance can and will be given by private agencies such as Oxfam, using generous public donations, it is clear that only governmental aid can respond adequately to the present emergency. This emergency aid could be provided by the Government now, through UN agencies, and should be.

The longer term diplomatic solution which can free full UN development aid for an impoverished Kampuchea is not evident. The British public may well find it shocking that her Majesty's Government has voted each year since 1979 to scrap Pol Pot's representatives among the coalition democratic Kampuchea delegation at the United Nations. This stance is not just morally uncomfortable but also counter-productive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unesco still relevant

Mr Alan Thompson

Unesco's strong support in education of Unesco was highly perceptive of the role of the UN. The UN - "fire-lighting" - the inevitably argument among nation-unity Council level - counterbalanced by a long-term pursuit of the free flow of culture across national

Unesco remains as in Mr Atlee's time. It should continue to exist in form and under statutory arrangements is

trists, scientists and all kinds in the UK. Years have been subject to scrutiny and pruning of sentiment and sympathy. In there is no convention that a minister concerned should resign when Parliament, after mature reflection, declines to carry into effect a hastily conceived manifesto commitment of the majority party.

If the Prime Minister and his ministers can manage to bring heel sufficient majorities members of Parliament and peers carry the Bill their dictatorial methods in so doing will be but small foretaste of the methods they will use to bring the local authorities to heel in the future.

Orwell, how clearly you prophesied, March on 1984.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. FLANAGAN, Leader,
Chesterfield Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.

Prime Minister and all parties in the Houses of Parliament. My own hope is that the USA, with its great traditions on international cultural interchange, will return to Unesco.

As a condition of its return, however, it would be justified in demanding a radical restructuring of Unesco, particularly in the sphere of budgetary control, improving the calibre of its staff, and some de-politicising of its activities.

If Unesco is to survive (and I sincerely hope that it does) it must build upon the worthwhile practical work it has done in such spheres as ecological, environmental, oceanic and maritime studies, in adult education, in distance learning, in the pursuit of literacy throughout the world, and providing basic assistance in the sciences.

Perhaps more important, it must revive Mr Atlee's vision of the free flow of information across frontiers and the freedom of the world's press from state control and censorship.

"The time, it is to be hoped, is gone by," wrote John Stuart Mill in 1859, "when any defence would be necessary of the liberty of the press as one of the securities against corrupt or tyrannical government. No argument, we may suppose, can now be needed."

Unfortunately, it is needed more than ever in 1984 and Unesco will lose its credibility unless it gives a lead in supporting freedom of the media throughout the world.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh,
January 10.

Arbus

Mr Moorhouse, MEP

(European Democratic)

and readers' letters to government's impend- provide launch aid to the new European 50-seat airliner hangs the balance. If this is a sign of our inability over the years to distinguish between a well

time in this country far too many civil on the go. Now we are going to the and of virtually all but the production of a prospect that might Boeing, who left with a new world medium-sized and craft. As it is, the

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Population

Mr Fletcher

Secretary (feature, January 4) reports that the new European 50-seat airliner hangs the balance. If this is a sign of our inability over the years to distinguish between a well

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was designed, as indeed was the de Havilland Comet, to push back the frontiers of knowledge and technology, the subsonic A320, cast in a more conventional mode, will aim fully to exploit known technology while offering super-fuel economy and minimal maintenance costs. Consequently, one can cost more accurately both the R & D and production of the A320, and the Government and operators such as British Caledonian, who have just placed an order, can feel correspondingly optimistic and confident about their choice.

There is a third major reason for confidence. The partners in Airbus Industrie have demonstrated by their successful track record with worldwide sales of the A300 and A310, that this venture really works and, given continued backing, will go from success to success.

If the Government cannot see its way to providing the full amount, then it is very much to be hoped they will also look to the rest of Europe and particularly the European Investment Bank for additional funding to reflect the truly European nature of the project.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES MOORHOUSE,
(Conservative spokesman on transport),
6 St James's Square, SW1.

spent on remand by convicted prisoners. The National Association of Probation Officers believes that the Home Secretary must, as a matter of urgency, review Bail procedures and in addition give serious consideration to the introduction of a statutory limit on time spent on remand in England and Wales.

Such a system already operates successfully in Scotland, where a trial must commence within 110 days of the initial remand in custody.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY FLETCHER,
Assistant General Secretary,
National Association of Probation Officers,
3/4 Chivalry Road,
Battersea, SW11,
January 5.

40,000 establishments each year. This rate compares favourably with that which obtained in the years immediately prior to 1979 when Mrs Thatcher took office.

(Nor is there any truth in the allegations sometimes made that employers widely ignore their obligations. In all the checks carried out by the Inspectorate in 1982 less than seven per cent of workers were found to have been underpaid.)

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR BURT,
House of Commons.

Old-age provision

From Mr Fred Curzon

Sir, Surely the removal of tax reliefs on pension scheme contributions may prove to be a retrograde step. Although there may be a cut in the basic rate of tax, there can be no guarantee that the increased earnings will be used to make provision for retirement.

One of the reasons for allowing tax relief was to ensure that more than half the working population, at least, had something more than the basic state benefit to rely on having reached retirement.

Could it not be the case in future that more and more people might have to resort to social security benefits if the cut in basic rate tax is spent on wine, women and song and not on provision for old age.

Yours faithfully,
FRED CURZON,
24 Orchard Avenue,
Sonning Common,
Reading, Berkshire.

In a word

From Mr Richard Cadman

Sir, When a company such as Logica or Reuters issues shares it "goes public." When the Government issues the shares of a nationalised industry, the company is "privatised."

I wonder if anyone knows the significance of this somewhat topsy-turvy language?

Yours etc,
RICHARD CADMAN,
90 Meadow Road, SW8.

A circus legend tomorrow comes to town: David Robinson reports

The clown with the heart of a child

Annie Fratellini, who brings her circus to the Shaw Theatre tomorrow as part of the current London International Mime Festival, is heir to a show-business dynasty whose ramifications extend to a royal house. The founder, Gustavo Fratellini, was born into a respectable and unremarkable Florentine family in 1842; but, after a seminary education and service with Garibaldi, he abandoned his bourgeois heritage to become an acrobat in the circus.

Gustavo's four sons followed him into the ring. They began as two double acts; but when the oldest, Louis, died in 1909 the survivors teamed up as the Fratellini Trio, to become circus history. Francois was the white-face, ablaze with spangles; Paul, in a disgraceful frock coat, affected airs of dubious grandeur; Albert was the red-nose who committed the most flagrant idiocies and took the hardest falls. Their huge repertoire of sketches and "entrées" has subsequently been pillaged by every other clown and slapstick comedian.

The Fratellini were as prolific in breeding as in comic business. By the 1930s there were enough children and grandchildren to create their own circus. Only the Second World War and the deaths of the original Trio (Paul in 1940, Francois in 1951 and Albert in 1961) finally scattered the clan.

Annie at first seemed to be the one

who got away. Her father, Victor, was the eldest son of Paul. (Her grandmother was an English roller-skater, Gladys Kenworthy, who went by the stage name of Miss Ryder.) She was born in Algiers in 1932 (Fratellini were born all over the place, with the extensive touring they did.) The first sign that she might defy family tradition was when she became the first Fratellini since Gustavo to go to a regular school. Even so, at 12 she made her debut, balancing on a ball and playing the saxophone, at the Cirque Medrano. One of her proudest memories is of appearing in the same show as Laurel and Hardy, when she was 19.

At 23, however, she quit the circus to become a jazz musician. She played saxophone, was vocalist with Philippe Brun's orchestra, and made some discs. She worked in films with Louis Malle, René Clair and Pierre Granier-Deferre, for whom she has a daughter. In 1968 she met Pierre Etaix: in his film *Le Grand Jeu* she plays the enchanting innocent and infuriatingly faithful little wife.

She and Etaix became off-stage husband and wife also; and it was Etaix who persuaded her to go back to the circus. She had meanwhile reconsidered her attitude to the family trade. As a child she had taken the circus for granted. Now she looked back and realized that the Fratellini had had been regarded as artistic

peers by people like Dullin, Picasso, Cocteau, Copaud, Stravinsky, Miller and Milhaud. "And if they had children they took them, too, to study circus in the ring with the Fratellini. It was already a sort of school." The circus, after all, was serious business.

So, in 1971, she went back into the ring as a red-nosed Auguste, with Etaix as her partner. In retrospect it seems inevitable. "You are a clown or you are not a clown. You are born a clown. The make-up you put on is not a disguise. It is through the make-up that you become yourself." Annie's make-up is dominated by a perfectly spherical crimson nose, pensive eyebrows and a haystack wig. Her characteristic costume is a voluminous coat (a repository of all kinds of treasures), elongated and disreputable boots and a precarious bowler hat.

At the same time as they started their clown act, Annie and Etaix created the Association de l'Ecole Nationale du Cirque. This resulted, three years later, in the foundation of the permanent Ecole Nationale du Cirque, which this year celebrates its tenth anniversary and is now supported by a subvention from the French Ministry of Culture.

She feels that the special qualities which make a clown are not really apparent until twenty or so. "Of course parents bring their eight-year-old children and say: 'She's very funny. She makes everyone laugh'.

But that doesn't mean anything. Being a clown implies a particular outlook on life. It is quite different from being a comedian. A comedian can do other people's material. A clown's comedy must come out of himself.

"A clown is an anarchist. But the really important thing is that the clown must always retain something of the child in his heart."

She believes she is the only woman clown in the world - or was until her daughter, Valerie Granier-Deferre, now 23, started to work as her white-face partner. But a clown is without sex. "Well, of course there are some differences. A man can use a gag with balloons as false breasts. If I did that it would be ridiculous, because everyone can see I'm a woman... And then it's a pity there are not more women clowns, because a woman has a possibility for tenderness, an extra dimension. Of course the greatest men clowns had that quality - Chaplin, Laurel, Keaton.

"But a clown is a clown. A clown is neither man nor woman. A clown is a mythical creature, outside time. A clown is something that a child can dream about. I understood this mystery of the clown most fully one day when a little girl asked me 'Please, what does a clown eat?'... The mystery and the magic are the most important thing. That is why, if you are a clown, you must never let a child see you getting ready."



A right pair of jokes: Annie Fratellini (left) with her daughter Valerie.

PUBLISHING

Paying precedents

Clark, chief executive of Hutchinson Group, has in record in an interview of current issue of the *Journal of Authors*. The *Journal* as saying "as technology advances I shall certainly look at it more closely."

is excellent news for authors on two scores. First, the present performance of the *Journal* is paying money that is to their authors. It is us. Second, it would be a precedent. Why not authors not receive a quarterly, on the standing that the advertisement on their books have earned? Most people in the industry, and publishers, the authors whose they undertake to publish, paid monthly, or even more. Now there is a thought. *Journal* say, or Collins.

draft of blurb-writing is best left to the author of the book being described, or although authors usually having had a hand in the purple or otherwise, used to note their work. Hamlyn Barbara Cartland's *The Romance of Food*, published on 23. It matters little whether an author or salvaging wrote these words to it: "For those delicious to a love affair, an on a sunlit balcony, an of a stolen luncheon, a luxurious champagne supper far into the night. How terribly, terribly..."

result of my mentioning a book to a publisher a few weeks ago that a publisher not responded to a manuscript after 3½ years. I am an experienced author, and I am not a novice. I have written a particularly long letter.

manuscript of mine was sent to a publisher who had interest in it in June last autumn. I enquired the telephone as to its fate. I was told that it was not going to be published. I was told that in 1980 the firm had not to publish further in that category. Records go back that far, but my script had been returned. I did not receive it, must have been lost in the post.

package was not registered. It was not sent by delivery, and no date of posting was given. A hint was dropped that was the one at fault. I had not made an error. But I was told that hundreds of unsolicited manuscripts are received.

I was wrong in stating that E.M. Forster and other authors spoke up in court on behalf of the net book agreement. It was the solicitor Michael Rubinstein (who has drawn the matter to my attention) who guided the book trade through the Restrictive Practices Court in 1962 in defence of the agreement. Booksellers, publishers and librarians gave evidence during a 24-day hearing. E.M. Forster was one of 35 authors who, in 1960, gave evidence for *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and Penguin's publication thereof.

E. J. Craddock

Royal Ballet
Sadler's Wells

Completing their London season on Saturday, before a regional tour, Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet showed three attractive works with several dancers taking new roles. Naturally the most assured and enjoyable performance came from their seniors playing parts developed over a period: David Ashmore's powerful and moving *Prodigal Son* and Alain Dubreuil's twinkling, adroitly funny Captain Belaye in *Pincup Poll*, both at the evening show.

Michael Batchelor, in his first Belaye at the matinee, cut a dashing figure and had some notable *entrées*. Poll at that performance was played by Sandra Madgwick, whose prodigious technique is matched by a warm personality and punchy style of acting. Siobhan Stanley took that role in the evening but I would think her better suited to Belaye's fiancée, Blanche.

Dance

Siobhan Stanley and Jennifer Mills both danced the Siren in *Prodigal Son* emphasizing the role's ritualized elements. With its powerful drama and mainly male cast, this ballet makes a good foil to the classical showpiece *Pocahontas* which began the bill.

Roland Price danced the solitary male role in that at the matinee and clearly found the long, exposed virtuoso sequences of his solo more than he had bargained for. Dubreuil in the evening, although his technique needs husbanding nowadays, still knows how to use it to maximum effect. He partnered Marion Tait, whose best ballerina role this is: nice arms and an unaffected manner. Sheryllyn Kennedy, with Price, had a promising air and some notable moments.

All the ballets had spirited dancing from their ensembles, and June Higwood's garrulous Mrs Dimple in *Poll* is a sheer delight.

John Percival

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NOTICE
INVITING PREQUALIFICATION

Punjab Industrial Development Board of Pakistan invites applicants for prequalification from prospective bidders to supply and establish a bagasse newsprint mill at Kamalia (Punjab). The mill will have a capacity of 66 000 metric tons per year using the soda process with recovery of cooking chemicals. Local sugar cane bagasse and imported pulp will be used as raw material. A detailed feasibility study for the project has been made.

Interested companies with well proven experience in bagasse pulp and paper making and with experience as turn key suppliers of integrated bagasse mills are invited to submit a detailed application for prequalification to be received not later than

February 4th, 1984 by 12 o'clock Noon

at the office of
PUNJAB INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT BOARD
11-Race Course Road
Lahore
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Tel 44 781 pldh pk

and simultaneously
ZELLPLAN GmbH
Van-Kahr-Straße 2
D-8000 Munich 30
Federal Republic of Germany
Tel 5212 013 fax 4

The Applicants are free to ask for further information required by contacting Zellplan, Munich, during office hours. After having received the applications for prequalification an evaluation of the application will be carried out and a short list or prequalified bidders will be prepared. The call for tenders for the integrated mill is under preparation and will be available to the qualified bidders in the PIDB office, Lahore, in March 1984.

Lahore, January 1984

S. Afzal Agha
Managing Director
Punjab Industrial
Development Board

Television

Raking old leaves

Dearly Beloved (YTV) began with the wedding service as heard from a graveyard, a lugubrious opening for what was essentially a charming play. Its theme was the construction of married life and it was appropriately solemn - a melodrama of middle age, the gist of which was summed up in the somewhat inelegant phrase "Our function's at an end". But it was also about the woes of a secular age and, as a result, God, sin and death were mentioned at regular intervals; the script, in fact, would not win any awards, except perhaps for humourlessness, although Lynn Farleigh as the wife managed to look sufficiently depressed. Nothing happened, of course, except that the leaves in the garden were raked.

What, meanwhile, has been happening in *The Thorn Birds* (BBC 1)? Barbara Stanwyck dead, the old house in flames, and the priest in a ditch. He, played by Richard Chamberlain, was described as "having a face of so much spiritual beauty" but it was difficult to tell beneath so much make-up. A play that devotes ten minutes to a sheep-shearing contest needs divine aid, however, to be saved. Luke, the ranch hand, is a new arrival; he is very bold, in an Australian manner. He believes the Catholic Church "is run by a bunch of poofers in black nightgowns".

The plot of this "mini series" could be written on the back of a matchbox - in fact it ought to have been - and the acting is almost pantomimic in its clumsiness. There were some

colourful scenes in the Vatican, however, but I hear that the director was only given permission to film there if he agreed to deposit Colleen McCullough's original manuscript in the Vatican Library. Will Luke and Meggie be happy in the Church triumph, Australia, but more importantly, will the BBC be allowed to keep its licence fee after having foisted this farrago of rubbish upon its (putative) audience?

Everyman (BBC 1) tends to be more authoritative on subjects of a religious nature. It was concerned last night with the Hindu concept of *samsara* or the "fourth stage", in which elderly men prepare for death by renouncing the world and becoming mendicants; it followed the progress of an affluent and westernized Indian in his efforts to "take *samsara*" and leave the society he knew. His family were not pleased at his decision - his daughter called it "high-sounding nonsense" - and the fact that this gentleman was followed everywhere by a camera crew suggested that he was not entirely free of worldly attachments. Although our own notion of Indian religion has been warped somewhat by the preposterous "gurus" who descend upon the West, this documentary was able to demonstrate something of the wealth and complexity of the indigenous faith. It was a very engaging, and in some ways touching, film.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

Standards are still high in the Park Lane Group's invaluable Young Performers series if they can field a first reserve as accomplished as the pianist John Lenehan. In the week's final concert he stood in for an indisposed artist, and blew a breath of fresh air across the programme.

He was allowed a racy sequence that showed his spiky, exuberant playing at its best: Prokofiev's Third Sonata, brilliantly dashed off; Samuel Barber's skittish glance at popular styles in his *Excursions*; and David Heath's fluently improvisatory jazz fantasy, *Fight the Lion*.

It was perhaps tempting providence for Lenehan to add Stravinsky's *Petrushka* movements at the end. There, jollity and facility do not get one far enough, and one noticed the lack in variety of colour and depth of tone.

Coincidentally (we would have praised the acute programme planning if we had not

known). Barber and jazz also turned up in the soprano Jennifer Higgins's part of the concert. Barber wrote one of the settings in *The James Joyce Book*, the handsome volume put together in 1929 to raise money for Joyce.

I would have liked to hear George Antheil's contribution, but there was fascination enough in Roger Sessions's terse suggestion of the whining winds, and the surprisingly powerful visions of Eugene Goossens and Herbert Howells. The newly commissioned addition, Anthony Powers's "Tut-tu e sciolto", drifted atmospherically but sounded tame. Miss Higgins has a large, well-focused, sharply pointed voice, but it was too hard for the delicate sensuousness of Rousset, especially for his suggestive "Jazz dans la nuit".

The early evening recital by the oboist Joseph Sanders and the fine pianist Caroline Clemmow was disappointing though he has an intense, plaintive tone, he was frequently troubled by reed problems: only Justin Connolly's *Tesserae 4* sounded convinced.

Nicholas Kenyon

Martyn Hill/
Lindsay Quartet
Barbican/Radio 3

Five long empty front rows, a sparse, wide-spread audience, and an auditorium which draws neither eye nor ear inward does not make a leader recital an easy business for either performer or audience. But easy it seemed on Friday at Martyn Hill's Schumann recital in the BBC Symphony Orchestra's Haydn and Schumann series, and that was exactly the trouble.

The fact that Martyn Hill had, to judge by insecure words and ill-considered phrasing, not yet found time to take the Op 24 *Liederkreis* and the *Dichterliebe* very deeply under his skin seemed to worry him little. Misplaced confidence was, though, his only sin of commission: much more of the weakness in both cycles grew from sins of omission.

Mr Hill was not helped by John Constable's meticulous, but bland, accompanying to find shifting distances as well as simply graded dynamics in *Liederkreis*; nor did attenuated tempo help in keeping his tenor voice to its usual keen and malleable level.

After a strenuous performance of Schumann's Quartet in A, Op 41 No 3, by the Lindsay Quartet, Mr Hill returned for *Dichterliebe*. Again, the specific detail of the songs' expressive potential was underestimated, from an early, cool detachment, to the lurching, mannered movement of "Ich grolle nicht". And when that strange, white tone he can achieve so well came to numb the poet's dreaming consciousness in "Ich hab im Traum geweinet" we were as unprepared and, by then, as distanced from the work as Mr Hill, for much of the time, seemed to be himself.

Hilary Finch

The Turn of the
Screw
Coliseum

The gliding translucent panels and grim country-house projections of Jonathan Miller's production are back, once more to give *The Turn of the Screw* a setting in which the living are as numbered and overwhelmed by themselves as the revenants. Perhaps all are ghosts in this black-and-white re-enactment that belongs in the world of the long-exposure photograph. Or else the only real ghosts are those of fear.

But, if this production follows the opera in being obsessed with revisiting a guilt-filled past, the present run offers new performances at each corner of its skew eternal triangle. Much to one's surprise, Jill Gomez and Philip Langridge are both making their house debuts, though it is not at all surprising that their performances as the Governess and Quint should be at once musically strong and dramatically sensitive.

The pure candour of Miss Gomez's singing is the chief ornament of a revival that often does seem to be engaging spirit voices. It is a real pleasure, for instance, to hear Mrs Grose's music sung by Margaret Kingsley without any of the usual elderly characterization but with 'becoming simplicity. And

Paul Griffiths



While Katy played yesterday, her mother made eighteen people feel a bit better

Katy's mother is one of those nurses who seem to make the whole ward happier when they are on duty. Yesterday, she cared for her patients with a bright and kindly attitude - and a quiet mind also. For she knew Katy was being well looked after at Barnardo's local day care centre. As a single parent, Katy's mother has faced many problems, and the last three years have been very tough. Now, with Barnardo's help, there is a new beginning. Since she returned to nursing six months ago, Katy's mother has been able to provide for her small daughter and herself, and begin to furnish their tiny flat. Best of all, she can see the benefit to Katy of mixing with other children and learning through play. Barnardo's caring makes a difference to the

community, where work is undertaken, units for physically handicapped children, and adoption centres are among the latest developments for youngsters under stress. In great need of guidance, the needs of children continue to climb. Please send a donation to Barnardo's, or that way you'll help children feel a bit better. Barnardo's will gladly send literature if you would like to write to

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[illegible]

MFI may be on course for £36m profits

The market has an opportunity to assess the progress of the MFI Furniture Group tomorrow, after last October's call, which was the first of a series of guidelines for the group went public in 1971.

There was no profit or dividend forecast accompanying the find, raising, but one of the reasons the company could not be satisfactory. So turning any unforeseen hiccup,

from Rad Electronics, the fast-growing electronics group, which goes from strength to strength under the chairmanship of Sir Ernest vintrose.

The group continued its 28 years of growth last year, but gave the market a fright by sounding a warning of problems in two areas, small boat radar and the Racal-Miles defence electronics.

In the annual meeting last August Sir Ernest said that these two companies

are showing signs of recovery and that there were signs that the delay in placing orders by customers overseas was beginning to ease.

The former Decca group of companies and the defence radar companies have also moved forward to leave the market hanging for a time.

Forecasted at about £60m for the period to October last year, against £47.4m last time.

This puts the group on course for pre-tax profits of about £130m for the year.

Tate & Lyle, the British sugar refiners, figures on Wednesday for the year to the end of September. The group forecast, at the time of last year's £42m call for cash to shareholders, that pre-tax profits would be £10.7m, against £40m the previous year. A total net dividend for the year of 15.5p, against 13.5p, was also forecast.

Since then Tate has been subject of speculation announced when Hanson declared that it had bought stakes in it from the sugar company. Tate said that it would proceed from the rights to expand the business, but making no acquisition in the field in the details of a deal have emerged.

Interim results from

Clues to Whitehall's stance

By the year end in May, MFI has to open six branches and create 12 stores to add to its existing 120 stores with more than 3 million square feet of selling space.

This rapid expansion will be topped up next year with 22 stores and relocations. Around that, MFI believes that there will still be scope for opening up to 30 more stores to further increase its share of the market for bedroom and kitchen furniture.

At the end of Wednesday a crop of preliminary results, including those of the year, compared with 1985.

After last week's jitters on interest rates the markets will be watching closely some of the key economic indicators out this week for further clues on the Government's attitude.

Three sets of figures will be of special interest: the detailed breakdown of the December public sector borrowing requirement; last month's public sector borrowing requirement; and December's retail prices index.

The money figures, out on Thursday, will show the extent to which the latest surge in monetary growth was due to bank lending or to expansionary public finances, though even the detailed breakdown will be affected by the unreliable seasonal adjustment which has plagued interpretation of what is happening.

Most analysts expect bank lending in the month, swollen by the pre-Christmas buying spree, to total about £1.5 billion.

Ahead of the Budget, the City will be looking for signs that borrowing is coming under control. The retail price index, released on Friday, is expected to show a modest increase of 0.3 to 0.4 per cent in December, leaving the annual inflation rate just above 5 per cent.

Other statistics out this week include provisional retail sales for December (today), industrial output in November (tomorrow), November average earnings (Wednesday), the latest cyclical indicators for the British economy, the preliminary estimate of fourth quarter consumer spending, and the third quarter institutional investment (Friday) which is expected to show a significant reduction in the amount of funds being sent overseas.

The uncertainty in the City of any improvement in group's orderbook, particularly from the mining where demand has been weakly sustained, has led to doubts about whether the firm will match last year's performance when previous results reached £16.97m.

Andrew Corbett

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Andrew Corbett

for pretax profits of about £130m for the year.

Tate & Lyle, the British sugar giant, is releasing figures on Wednesday for the year to the end of September. The group forecast, at the time of last year's £42m call for cash to shareholders, that pretax profits for the year would reach £235m against £20m the previous year. A total net dividend for the year of 15.5p, against 13.5p, was also forecast.

Since then Tate has been the subject of speculation and rumours — as Hanson announced that it had a 10% stake in the company — but the present stake it had but the sugar company. Tate said that it would expand the business, by making use of the details of a deal have emerge.

Interim results from

's stance

The market has an opportunity to assess the progress of the MF Furniture Group tomorrow, after last October's 28.6 cent call, which was the first appeal to shareholders for funds since the group went public in 1971. There was no profit or

ident forecast accompanying the fund-raising, but the group said that trading continued to be satisfactory. Soaring any unforeseen hiccups, analysts are expecting pretax profits to be about £18m for the next months to the end of November, against £11.3m at the same stage last year. This stage is just the group's

By the year end in May, MFI is to open six branches and relocate 12 stores to add to its existing 120 stores with more than 3 million square feet of retail space. This rapid expansion will be completed next year with 22 new stores and relocations. And, MFI believes that there will still be scope for further expansion to 30 more stores to increase its share of the market for bedroom and kitchen furniture.

On Wednesday a crop of preliminary results include those

The group continued its 28 years of record growth last year but gave the market a fright by sounding a warning of problems in two areas, small boat radar and the Rascal-Milgo operation in Miami. At the annual meeting last August Sir Ernest said that these two companies

Clues to

After last week's jitters on interest rates the markets will be watching closely: some of the key economic indicators out this week, for further clues on the Government's attitude.

Three sets of figures will be of special interest - the detailed breakdown of the December money supply; last month's public sector borrowing requirement; and December's retail prices index.

The money figures, out on Thursday, will show the extent to which the latest surge in monetary growth was due to bank lending or to expansionary

The former Decca group of companies and the defence radar companies have also moved forward to leave the market hoping for half time pretax profits of about £60m for the period to October last year against £47m last time.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Whitehall

public finances, though even the detailed breakdown will be affected by the unreliable seasonal adjustment which has plagued interpretation of what is happening.

Most analysts expect bank lending in the month, swollen by the pre-Christmas buying spree, to total about £1.5 billion.

Ahead of the Budget, the City will be looking for signs that borrowing is coming under control. The retail price index, released on Friday, is expected to show a modest increase of 0.3

Tate & Lyle, the British sugar giant, also reports figures for the year to the end of September. The group's 1990-91 forecast, at the time of the £42m call for cash to shareholders, that pretax profit for the year would reach £55m, against £40m the previous year. A total net dividend for the year of 15.5p, against 13.5p, was also forecast.

's stance

Since then Tate has been the subject of speculation about his death when Hanson announced that it had bought a 10 per cent stake in it had bought the sugar company. Tate has insisted that it would be a proceeds from the rights to expand the business, by making an acquisition in the sweeter field in the details of a deal have emerged.

Dowty Group, the attack defence and mining equipment, are also planning Wednesday. The main looking for some significant improvement in the coal mining equipment order.

At the group's annual meeting last September Sir John Hunt, the chairman, said directors' confidence in the industry is unshaken—but that need longer than the best of the present for the industry to get through.

The uncertainty in the group of any improvement of any orderbook, particularly from the mining industry where demand has been usually stagnant, has doubts about whether it will match last year's performance, which was predicted to reach £1.657bn.

Andrew Cor

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Trust	84.75	Sea Star Pro
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PLANTATIONS	
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ns	210	+2	7.4	12.4
ns	148	+3	6.2	12.6
ns	87	-4	5.0	8.7
ns	139	-4	5.0	8.7
ns	139	-4	7.1	26.5
ns	48	-4	6.5	26.1
ns	85	-4	6.5	26.1
ns	58	-3	0.7	2.5
ns	815	+3	5.7	7.1
ns	815	+75	10.8	12.4
ns	294	+2	20.0	2.5
ns	115	+2	2.5	2.5
ns	163	+2	2.5	2.5
ns	113	+3	6.2	3.3
ns	276	+2	5.5	2.5
ns	276	+25	5.5	2.5
ns	173	+2	12.0	5.7
ns	82	+7	4.7	8.7
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2086	87	-	-	-
2087	87	-	-	-
2088	87	-	-	-
2089				

- The Internal Revenue Service said that it had approved a new standstill program to assist farmers in Hungary.
- Pepper prices rose this year for the fourth month, to 10¢ per pound.
- Sales of American cars for this month rose 10 percent from a year ago, according to the manufacturers, a sign that the strong motor industry is making a comeback.

Prices table

Today's table shows market prices for commodities. Prices of unlisted items are available from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, D.C. For more information, call 202-549-5400.

Commodity	Unit	Price
Aluminum	lb.	1.14
Copper	lb.	1.14
Gold	oz.	1.14
Iron	lb.	1.14
Lead	lb.	1.14
Nickel	lb.	1.14
Platinum	oz.	1.14
Silver	oz.	1.14
Steel	lb.	1.14
Tin	lb.	1.14
Zinc	lb.	1.14

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Interest rates poised on an unsteady tightrope

Policy-makers on both sides of the Atlantic did their best to talk down interest rates over the weekend. In Miami, Mr Paul Volcker said he thought the trend of interest rates was still down, despite the US budget deficit and his own refusal to accommodate it in monetary growth. On British television, Mr Nigel Lawson insisted that our own monetary growth is firmly under control, blithely sweeping aside the superficial evidence provided by recent figures.

In the short-term, the view of those who pull the policy levers is probably more important than market forces. Mr Volcker, in particular, carries weight. In a presidential election year, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board is the guardian of the US economy. US bond prices immediately rose in response to his remarks and a crop of monetary and economic straws suggesting the wind of growth might be moderating.

But the idea that a downturn in US interest rates, via a weakening dollar, might jog down British rates again, looks premature.

Indeed, most expectations for interest rates here have undergone a subtle, but perceptible change in the opposite direction as a result of the dollar surge from the New Year until the last few days.

Vague hopes before Christmas that there might be scope for a further fall in base rates during the early part of this year have disappeared. This caution extends to the building societies, some of whom were still suggesting last month that the mortgage rate might be lowered early in the New Year.

There are special reasons for the building societies' change of heart. The formal break up of their cartel has blurred the process of reaching a consensus on any change in rates, and realistically a consensus is still required before rates will go down, since none of the building societies can afford to risk a unilateral cut. Mortgage demand is still strong and the societies are increasingly taking the view that if people are prepared to borrow at today's mortgage rate, then there is no need to lower it and risk making mortgage finance scarcer.

Uncertainty over Inchcape

Sir David Orr returns to his desk at Inchcape this morning facing conflicting reports about his company's future and knowing that the man who was natural successor to run the group from next summer leaves in a fortnight.

Mr Roy Davies, a senior executive director and the man tipped by observers as the next managing director, resigned shortly before Christmas over management differences with Sir David. The split surprised most analysts and prompted Mr Robert Carpenter, analyst with Montague Leobele Stanley, to regard Inchcape as a ripe takeover candidate.

But late last week, Mr Michael Smith, of stockbrokers Simon & Coates, urged shareholders, in a circular, to sell Inchcape down to around 260p. The shares were ignoring the advice on Friday adding a few more pence to 323p.

Mr Smith remains unrepentant. He says the group relies too heavily on motor

Banks share the more cautious attitude to interest rates. The latest pronouncements from both Barclays and National Westminster suggest that money interest rates are at or near their lowest for the economic cycle, though there is as yet no reason to see them rising much.

Aside from such broad cyclical analysis, the main worries are the weakness of sterling against the dollar and money supply growth in Britain.

Sterling has simply shared the same fate as other currencies such as the Deutsche mark and despite speculation that the German Government might raise the Lombard rate this week, it is fairly clear that neither the British or German Governments will be keen to use the uncertain weapon of an interest rate rise to protect their currencies at such a critical stage of economic recovery.

However, the British Government has the additional problem of trying to meet its money supply targets. With two out of three targets it is signally failing to do so, and the other measure, EM3, is knocking on the ceiling of the 7-11 per cent target range at an annualized rate.

Bank lending to the personal sector is the main culprit, but the expected pick-up in loan demand from the corporate sector could soon begin to further aggravate the problem.

Another set of poor money supply figures combined with pressures in the foreign exchange markets could conceivably lead to irresistible pressure for higher interest rates, but Mr Lawson clearly has no such visions.

There is a growing view in the City that monetary problems will lead the Government to raise taxes in the Budget, giving it scope for overfunding by selling debt the only reliable way of controlling the money supply in the short term.

By the end of last week the flurry of concern that the next move in interest rates might be up, seemed to have receded and the Government took the opportunity to launch a new £1 billion tap stock. But its ability to fund in the run up to the Budget will depend critically on both confidence in the markets and on where the dollar goes next.

distribution, that the decline in gearing is illusory and assets are overvalued. Net debt has remained unchanged at £245m for two years while shareholder funds have been increased. The net asset value of 497p is based on a 1980s revaluation, before the collapse of the Hongkong property market and a big shakeout in South East Asian stock markets.

The expected recovery of Inchcape last year was severely hampered by Hongkong's financial crisis and there is still doubt over whether the overseas trading giant will maintain the final dividend when full year results are reported in four months.

Sir David's attempts to rationalize the company which bears the name of his predecessor, Lord Inchcape, who still retains the new position of president - are all steps in the right direction. Clearly his most pressing problem is to convince the City that patient Inchcape shareholders will eventually be rewarded.

Bankers fear domino effect if Brazilian loan collapses

By John Lawless

Western bankers meet in New York tomorrow for crucial talks on the Latin American debt crisis.

They have a week to convince bankers from Spain, Argentina, Venezuela and Colombia that the solution to the continent's immense financial problem lies almost entirely in their hands.

The four countries are refusing to support the new money loan of \$6.5 billion for Brazil. A signing ceremony for the loan due to take place today, was cancelled on Friday.

Banks in the four countries, many government-owned, represent the bulk of the \$100m still outstanding. Although so close to its target, about half of the money committed by more than 700 banks worldwide is conditional upon the loan being 100 per cent subscribed.

A Mexican delegation, led by the public debt director, Senator Angel Gurría, arrives in London tomorrow knowing that it could be the first to feel the impact of what one banker yesterday described as "the financial domino that could fall in Latin America".

The Mexican finance officials are at the start of a two-week world tour to persuade banks to join the \$3.8 billion new money loan for this year - agreed on

fairly easy terms a week ago by the main banks coordinating its rescue package.

However, without the Brazilian loan in place, many western banks will balk at providing continuing assistance to Mexico.

The banks are perplexed by Argentina's refusal to support Brazil. The new government in Buenos Aires is next in line to try to reschedule what it owes (believed to be at least \$35 billion).

It is now known that the Argentine Economics Minister,

Dr Bernabé, has been held up because of non-compliance with IMF targets.

Without access to detailed information on the state of Argentine finances, the banks may be reluctant to commit themselves further.

What makes Argentine intransigence over Brazil even more remarkable is the fact that the Argentine banks agreed to support its rescue package last year.

Only four banks would be expected to commit themselves for up to \$40m in total to the Brazilian loan, with the government-owned Banco de la

which was supposed to be disbursed last year and this, but which has been held up because of non-compliance with IMF targets.

For the sake of what is almost a paper transaction, under which both countries would agree to provide support for each other, with funds borrowed from abroad, Argentina seems to be risking the long-term solvency of its South American neighbours and itself.

The 14-bank Brazil Advisory Committee has said that its loan will now be signed in the week beginning January 23. It will not be able to use incomplete documentation as an excuse, as did on Friday.

\$9bn IDA aid agreed

Washington. (AP-Dow Jones) - Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, president of the World Bank, has announced that the United States and other donor countries have agreed to provide \$9 billion (\$6.4 billion) in aid to the International Development Association (IDA) for loans to poorer developing nations in the three years starting on July 1.

The United States will provide 25 per cent of the total, or \$2.25 billion, and Japan will be the second-largest donor with 18.7 per cent or about \$1.68 billion.

Japan's decision to accept a bigger role as a financial

contributor to an underfunded IDA is the second largest in the World Bank's history.

Mr Clausen said that the IDA could not reach a total figure of \$9 billion.

But he said that the IDA would be able to arrange several months.

Giordano's pay slips £57,000

By Jonathan Davis Financial Correspondent

Mr Richard Giordano, British industry's highest paid executive, received more than £50,000 last year for the second consecutive year - despite dropping more than £1,000 a week in lost pay and bonus.

Mr Giordano, an American, is chief executive of BOC, formerly British Oxygen, the industrial gases and health care group. The company's annual report and accounts, out today, disclosed that his pay last year fell from £57,000 to £51,500, a drop of £5,500.

Mr Giordano's salary is determined by a committee consisting of BOC's non-executive directors, who fix his pay on the basis of an agreement of his and the company's performance.

Last year, a difficult one for BOC, pretax profits fell from £102.6m to £95.8m, on an historic cost basis, although



Giordano: BOC can expect 'substantial increase' in profits.

they were marginally up in current cost terms.

This year, Mr Giordano says in the annual report, the company can expect a "substantial increase" in pretax profits as the world recovery gathers pace.

The main reason why Mr

High cost of energy criticized

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

One hundred British factories are facing severe competitive problems because of the continuing high price of electricity. In some cases, the cost is 20 per cent higher than on the Continent.

The plight of these industrial intermediate industries such as chemicals, man-made fibres, iron and steel, paper and board and plastic packaging, has been highlighted by Mr John Cassels, director general of the National Economic Development Office, who has told the Government that the power price issue needs to be resolved urgently.

Many of the intermediate industries welcome the Government action to reduce their energy bills after reports from a NEDO energy task force set up in 1981. But Mr Cassels says the larger energy-intensive users who have little scope to pass on higher prices to their customers, continue to suffer.

He said the 100 plants affected were operating in a highly competitive world market. "We cannot afford to lose these chunks of British industry."

There is now a glimmer of hope that the Government will act to reduce the differential with the industries' European competitors. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told last week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) that action was being considered.

UK revival 'far from assured'

Economic forecasters are developing a herd instinct, which is stampeding them into optimistic forecasts about Britain's recovery, but continued growth is "far from assured", according to the stockbroker, Simon & Coates, which advises investors to keep their eyes on the future, not on the past.

The stockbroker says: "Healthy growth seems assured in Britain at least until mid-1984. However, we have little doubt that the year as a whole will see Britain's real growth lagging well behind the international average."

Britain's recovery was ahead of other countries in 1982, the stockbroker says, while last year its growth rate of 2.6 per cent was in line with the average of the leading industrial nations.

This year, it forecasts that Britain's growth will slow to about 1.8 per cent, compared with between 3 per cent and 4 per cent for other industrial nations.

Grievson Grant, the stockbroker, forecasts a 4 per cent growth this year for Britain's economy. It expects consumer spending to once again contribute most, although investment is forecast to be more significant than last year.

Grievson expects exports to rise strongly boosted by the recovery in world economic activity.

It says the rise in inflation over next few years is unlikely to match that of the 1970s.

Property group plans £5m launch on USM

Another property company is joining the Unlisted Securities Market. Full details of Grosvenor's new company started eight years ago, are due tomorrow from Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

About 25 per cent of the company's shares are expected to be sold off at just under £1 each. This will place a £5m tag on the group, which operates largely in London and the Home Counties.

Grosvenor, in its last financial year achieved profits of £39,000. Profits for the year to the end of March are forecast at £40,000.

The group, headed by Mr Paul Marber, a former English property corporation director, is just undertaking its first overseas development - in New York State.

Its developments are mostly funded by institutions.

Lear Fan is 'out of cash'

The chief executive of Lear Fan Aircraft, which last week made 91 workers redundant in Northern Ireland, has admitted the company is running out of money.

Production of the revolutionary carbon fibre plane has been delayed because problems with the fuselage have held up its certification in the United States. The company also has a plant in Reno, Nevada.

Mrs Moya Lear, widow of the Lear Fan inventor, Mr William Lear, said in Belfast yesterday: "We are running out of money."

But she insisted the company would survive until it won the certification of airworthiness.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week

FT Index: 808.1 up 13.8
FT All Shares: 83.33 down 0.21
FT All Shares: 490.81 up 7.13
Bargains: 27,200
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 101.77 up 0.42
New York: Dow Jones
Average: (close) 1270.10 down 16.54
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 10,150.97
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index: 975.47

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: AGB Research, Atlas Investment Trust, Gray Electronics, Ferguson Industrial Holding (third quarter), Restmor Group, Stroud Riley Drummond, Final: Evoca Group, Southern Business Leasing.
TOMORROW - Interims: Armour Trust, Centrovital Estates, Electronic Machine Co, Gnome Photographic Products, Group Investors, Kakuzi, MFI Furniture Group, D. S. Smith, Westpool Investment Trust, Final: Countryside Properties, Arthur Guinness, Lincroft Kilgour, Trident Television.
WEDNESDAY - Interims: Allied Colloids Group, Astra Industrial Group, Sidney C. Banks, Dowry Group, Fleming Technology Trust, A. and J. Geller, Rascal Electronics, Final: Anglia TV, Bell Brothers, Tate & Lyle.
THURSDAY - Interims: Atlantic Assets Trust, Country and New Town Properties, Dixons Group, Independent Investment Co., Property Security Investment Trust, Stewart Plastics (Amended), Final: Elendsrand Gold Mining, Eurotherm International, Greenfriar Investment, Y. J. Lovell Holdings, Oakwood Group, (Amended) Rabburn Investment Trust, St. Andrews Trust, South African Land & Exploration, Southval Holdings, Trusthouse Forte, Vaal Reef's Exploration & Mining, Western Deep Levels.
FRIDAY - Interims: Andre de Bredt, Haynes Publishing Group, Benjamin Priest Group.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Steelmaker may not pay wages

Hard-pressed Italsider, Italy's biggest steelmaker, may not be able to pay its January wages, according to Singor Romano Prodi, chairman of its parent, the state-owned Istituto Per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI). He said on a visit to Genoa, that IRI's coffers were empty. The group ended last year with losses of Lira 3,100 billion (£1,292m) of which Lira 2,100 billion (£875m) came from the steel sector. Group debts had reached Lira 36,000 billion (£15,000m). Singor Prodi said that if new capital funds, provided under a government bill before parliament, did not arrive quickly, "we don't know if we will be able to pay January wages."

● The International Monetary Fund said in Washington that it had approved a 12-month standby arrangement of \$425m to assist an economic programme in Hungary.

● Pepper prices are expected to soar this month, according to the monthly bulletin of the Pepper Marketing Board.

● Sales of American cars so far this month rose 32 per cent from a year ago, according to manufacturers. It is seen as a sign that the strong recovery the motor industry made last month was likely to continue.

Tyre groups compete to buy French Dunlop

From Catherine Dodds, Paris

The French offshoot of the troubled Dunlop Holdings is now the subject of "serious and keen" bidding, according to official French sources.

Dunlop (France) went into receivership in October as part of the British group's restructuring, which included the sale of most of its European tyre business to the Japanese Sumitomo group for £82m.

But such was the plight of Dunlop (France) that Sumitomo was then not prepared to entertain a takeover.

In receivership and with its debts frozen, Dunlop (France) has been allowed to continue production, and live off sales earnings, for a limited period while the 1982 government-created CIRI (Interministerial

Committee for Industrial Restructuring) finds a solution to the company's situation.

Firestone, the US tyre group, has submitted a detailed proposition and Sumitomo of Japan is expected to follow suit by the end of this week. Italy's Pirelli Group intends to formalize its proposal.

The CIRI says that another Japanese group could make an offer, but it has confirmed that Goodyear is definitely out of the running.

Dunlop (France), whose losses had reached 200m francs (£16m) a year, and whose products include car wheels and sports goods, employs 5,400 staff.

Reagan 'must act' on deficits, interest rates and dollar

OECD sees threat to US recovery

Paris (AP-Dow Jones) - The economic recovery in the US may falter next year if the Reagan Administration does not act swiftly to tighten its fiscal policy in order to reduce projected budget deficits.

The advice, offered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is timely.

President Ronald Reagan is putting the finishing touches on his 1985 fiscal budget, and preliminary indications are that he intends to delay action on reducing the deficits until after the November presidential elections.

While recognizing that the United States recovery will continue this year, the OECD states: "There are signs which could bode ill for its medium-term sustainability."

In an unusually critical report on the United States economy,

the first published since June 1982, the secretariat's economists say large projected government deficits, high real interest rates and a strong dollar are the most urgent problems.

If action is not taken, they assert, the economy will lose steam, resulting in "a persistent unemployment problems, weak profitability and long-term damage to the export and import-competing sectors of the economy."

The OECD expects echo the fears of many European governments when they argue that, high interest rates and weakening US markets "could aggravate the debt problems of developing countries and limit prospects for recovery in other OECD countries."

The report states that federal deficit is likely to remain close to its last year level of \$188 billion (£132bn) this year,

presenting 5.2 per cent of cross national product, compared with 5.8 per cent last year.

The OECD forecasts an acceleration in the growth of real US GNP to 4.9 per cent this year from 3.4 per cent last, accompanied by a "moderate" acceleration of consumer price inflation to 5.6 per cent from 3.2 per cent.

But the growth figures mask a deceleration during the year to a rate of 3.5 per cent by the end of the year.

The OECD also predicts a tough year for Ireland (writes Frances Williams). It says Ireland must continue to make swinging cuts in public spending, perhaps cuts in social security and welfare programmes, to put its economy back on the road to prosperity.

In a gloomy assessment of economic prospects over the

coming year the OECD says growth will not be sufficient to stop unemployment rising from 14 to 16 per cent of the workforce, or to keep living standards from falling. A 1 per cent expansion of the economy is forecast this year after 0.5 per cent last year.

The OECD says that although considerable progress has been made in reducing the budget deficit it remains "excessively large" at more than 18 per cent of national output. The organization's economists believe there is little scope for rising taxes, making painful cuts in public spending inescapable.

The review suggests public investment as a candidate for economies, pointing out that the returns on the past "very ambitious" programmes have been "very disappointing."

Jas Capel & Co

assurance in announcing the opening of Tokyo Representative Office, with effect Monday 16th January 1984.

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Fagan typically generous but generosity of his team is atypical

By Paul Newman

It is hardly time to talk of a crisis at Anfield, but the Liverpool machine is not ticking over as smoothly these days as ever has come to expect. Having been held to draws in two previous Canon home games, Joe Fagan's team went one worse on Saturday when they lost 1-0 at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers, the first division's bottom club.

The loss of Dalglish through injury seems to be affecting Liverpool more than they would like to admit and the prospect of travelling to Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow in the fifth round of the Milk Cup must be a daunting one for Fagan. While Liverpool appear temporarily at least to have lost their touch, Wednesday, the second division leaders, seem to have discovered theirs.

Wolves beat Liverpool, who are still two points clear at the top, with a ninth minute goal by Mardenborough and Fagan was typically generous in his praise of his opponents. "Even though we had 70 per cent of the game there was no way that Wolves looked uncomfortable in defence," he said. "Everybody says it's so easy for Liverpool, but it's not. Football has changed. It has got harder for any team to win as they were once expected to."

The punter who recently backed Arsenal at odds of 1,000,000 to 1 to win the championship may have felt his pulse race a little faster after the weekend's programme. While Arsenal were winning 2-1 away to Luton Town, only Norwich City of the 10 clubs above them were taking maximum points.

A month ago, when Terry Neill was dismissed as manager, Arsenal were sixteenth in the table. Since Don Howe took charge of the team they have won three and drawn three of their six League matches and have risen to eleventh.

The gap between Arsenal and Liverpool is now 12 points; it would take some extraordinary

results for that to be bridged but a few more like Saturday's could start worrying the Reds who have already claimed 50p bet at 1,000,000 to 1 because it was a "pal error".

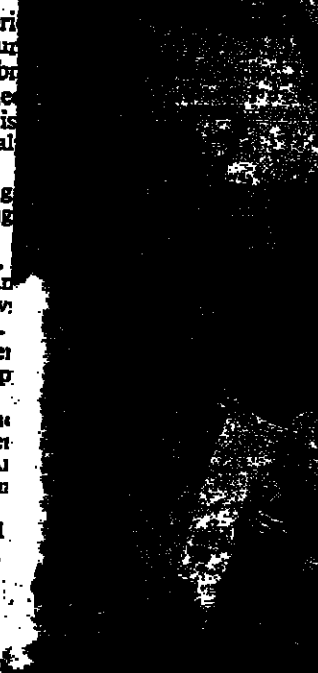
With Liverpool losing Manchester United having held 1-1 by Queens' Rangers on Friday night, Ham United had the chance to go second but went down to Birmingham City.

Saturday's matches were reverse of those on the day of the season and spectators, particularly the Luton, may have felt a déjà vu. Not only did Arsenal win both matches 2-1 but also scored the two Luton Robson was the offender. Woodcock and Sanson, the target at the other end.

Wednesday, Chelsea, Manchester City opened second division promotion campaigns with wins Swansea City, Derby County and Crystal Palace respectively and each completed the day on Saturday.

Wednesday were the impressive, winning 6-1 at Tottenham for whom Tashack, the player-manager, scored an own goal. Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, Ipswich Town, and Ipswich Town, were also gpswich Town.

Manchester City comfortable 3-1 home over Crystal Palace, manager Alan Mullery, ably assisted by whom Tashack, the player-manager, scored an own goal. Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, Ipswich Town, and Ipswich Town, were also gpswich Town.



Ground for complaint: Mr Thomas, the referee, explains his decision to Crooks (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Master Hoddle goes to Toy-Town

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

side had gained their first League win since beating Queens' Park Rangers in November. Others were more comfortable that they had done so by the method that has earned such popularity.

Not everyone, it would seem, accepted Tottenham's strategy against Fulham. Even some of their own supporters were clearly disturbed by it. For a game featuring one of the more adventurous of first division visitors, their crowd was only 25,832. That is more than 3,000 below their previous lowest figure this season, against Notts County.

Tottenham themselves, have started to rise above their own nadir. After seven successive failures their confidence had fallen to the floor but even their numerous absences are beginning to pick themselves up. Their reserve side, now including the likes of Mabbutt, Adkins, Brazil, Hughton and Price, reads more like an international all-star team.

The man to lift them was Hoddle. For some 20 minutes before the interval he touched perfection itself. He started by curling a shot against a post, continued by setting up opportunities for Falco and Roberts, then forced the corner that preceded the opening goal and finished by creating the second for Falco.

Burkshaw revealed that Hoddle was suffering from "a really badly bruised Achilles tendon. It was black and blue and many would have pulled out with such an injury". He did eventually withdraw, to be replaced by a familiar face in Crooks, and even the Ipswich directors stood to applaud him as he left.

Mariner, ruled out through influenza, may have been a significant loss for Ipswich but their lack of determination, particularly in midfield, where they offered Hoddle a dangerously large playground, as they were to discover to their cost, was disappointing. Butcher, at the back, and Gates, up front, were the individual exceptions to the general rule.

Paris, appearing in only his fifth match and unbeaten in the three hours since taking over from the injured Clemence, was threatened on only three occasions. Gates was involved in all of them, twice on his own and once when he released Parkin. Tottenham's goalkeeper blocked each attempt with his shin bones.

Although he did twice allow Archibald to escape and almost uproot a post, Butcher grew to resemble a one-man army protecting Ipswich's defences that were crumbling all around him. Two interceptions, when Archibald and Falco were closing in, were as crucial as his header off the line from Falco. The rest of the resistance was so frail that a gentle breeze was more than enough to blow it over.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: A. Parkin, G. Stevens, M. Brown, G. Roberts, P. Miller, S. Perryman, R. Cooke, S. Archibald, M. Falco, G. Hoddle (sub G. Crooks), A. Gaten. IPSWICH TOWN: L. Swift, G. Burley, J. Garton, T. Parson, R. Garton, T. Blatcher, J. Wark, S. McCann, M. O'Hare, E. Gates, T. Pacey (sub: K. O'Callaghan). Referee: C. Thomas (Porthcawl).

Leeds grip accounts for Widnes again

By Keith Macklin

Leeds 18
Widnes 10

The iron grip, both physical and psychological, currently held by Leeds on Widnes brought further cup triumph for the Yorkshiremen and this season's second disappointment for the beaten Lancashire Cup finalists.

In Saturday's toughly contested and gale-blown John Player Trophy final at Wigan the indiscretions of Widnes cost them dearly in terms of vital penalties and two fine tries by Leeds from splendid handling movements wiped out their early six-point lead.

Within two minutes the Widnes full back Burke joined a move on the left and his inside pass sent in Linton. Burke kicked the goal to give Widnes an excellent start. However, Leeds are past masters at overcoming early deficits and, with the confidence born of success over the years, they took play to the Widnes half where they produced two cracking tries. First Dick, the Australian Laurie and the New Zealander Bell fashioned a try for the fast-supporting Holmes. Then Dick juggled with an inside pass to drive over after another flowing move.

Cresser's goals, plus a penalty goal, gave Leeds a 14-6 lead. Widnes had their best spell on attack during the last 10 minutes of the first half and Lydon took Adams' high kick from under the noses of three Leeds defenders to touch down although Burke failed at goal.

In the second half the gale, driving, sleet and ruthless tackling stifled scoring moves, although both sides commendably attempted to open up the play. As time wore on, Widnes became frustrated at their failure to break down the Leeds defence and the referee, Billy Thompson, came down hard on needless offences. Cresser landed two further goals and the Widnes forward, Steve O'Neill, was sent to the sin bin for taking a swipe at an opponent.

Maurice Bamford has now gone nine games without defeat as Leeds' coach, but he will be the first to acknowledge the debt to Webb, man-of-the-match: Bell, Holmes and Ward, an inspiring captain.

LEEDS: I. Withnall, P. Hendrie, D. Cresser, D. Bell, A. Smith, J. Holmes, K. Dick, K. Bell, P. Lydon, M. Laurie, T. Webb, W. Bell, S. Bell, K. O'Callaghan, J. Lydon, R. Linton, E. Hughes, A. Gregory, S. O'Neill, K. Smith, K. Tait, L. Gately, F. Whitfield, M. Adams. Referee: W. H. Thompson (Huddersfield).

Hull KR blow Rovers apart

On a day when the weather reduced the programme by half Hull Kingston Rovers managed not only to play but to win for the eleventh league game running to stay top of the first division, sponsored by Slalom Lager. They beat Featherstone Rovers 34-0.

Donny, Hull KR's Australian, who had already kicked a first half goal and penalty, added two tries and two minutes in the second half on his way to a personal haul of 18 points. Kelly and Prohm also collected first half tries and Smith and Clark did likewise after the interval.

St Helens eased their own relegation fears and added to those of luckless Whitehaven, who took a step nearer making a swift return to the second division by losing 40-14 at windswept Knowsley Road. The struggling Cumbrians showed a great deal of character and commitment but their valiant efforts brought little reward.

Tris from Melrose, Akerwright, Rule and Hagarty helped St Helens lead 20-4 at the break. D'Leary and Wright scored Whitehaven's tries.

Wakefield Trinity seem certain to join Whitehaven in the second division next season following their 16-42 defeat at Warrington, who never touched anything like their best form. They were always struggling to get on top. After leading 6-2 early in the second half, Warrington found themselves trailing 10-6 five minutes later. Although they edged in front again, Trinity came back with a storming rally to level matters a 12-12 but they paid dearly for late infringements which enabled Warrington to add two further penalty goals to make the issue safe.

The most plucky performance in the second division was York's. Down to 12 men after only 20 minutes, they staged a remarkable comeback from being 16-0 down at the interval to lead 18-16 with 10 minutes to go before losing 22-18 at Kent Invicta. The winning try came with five minutes left. A try by Eila, the New Zealand centre after a brilliant 30-yard run, was converted by his compatriot O'Shea.

York with Hughes sent off after 20 minutes for striking a player off the ball, rallied in determined fashion in the second half with Steadman spearheading their revival. He kicked three goals and went over for one brilliant try. Invicta lost Lane their captain, an Achilles tendon injury, minutes before the end.

Hands and feat otherwood

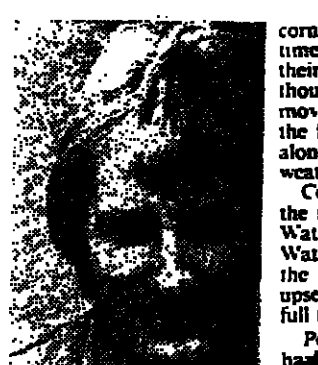
By Simon O'Hagan

Coventry City 1
Watford 2

Coventry City are doubtless hoping that the wind will have dropped by the time they play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the FA Cup tonight. On Saturday, as Wolves were winning at Anfield, other equally improbable events were taking place at Highfield Road, where Coventry were almost literally blown to defeat by Watford.

The styles of these teams are contrasting enough at the best of times. Coventry's being based on neat, short passes, Watford's on frantic running and long balls upfield. Turn on a gale and you test these systems to the utmost. Can the wind be exploited by putting the ball in the air, or avoided altogether by keeping play earth-bound?

Not for the first time the Watford method succeeded when it seemed less likely to. Coventry played the more attractive football, created more chances and had the goalkeeping in Benoit, who they were thwarted by which would have struck



Sherwood: wind-assisted.

credulity had the cartoon strip. Watford minutes later had a goal. The wind was a factor in the Coventry defeat.

corner four minutes before half-time. By then Coventry were finding their rhythm. Bennett, as subtle in thought as he was supple in movement, played two passes inside the full back, Rostrom, which were alone worth braving the freezing weather for.

Coventry increased the pressure in the second half but as they did so Watford strengthened their defence. Watford are very good at this, the way and time to upstage Coventry.

full flow.

Hull left out in the cold

By Clive White

The mischievous weather had

Coventry increased the pressure in the second half but as they did so Watford strengthened their defence. Watford are very good at this, the way and time to upstage Coventry.

full flow.

Roberts gets a mark and

The mischievous weather had

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By D. J. ...

Birmingham West Ham

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Manchester City

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Thatcher defends Oman lobbying

The Prime Minister said yesterday that she was happy if her lobbying has helped a British firm to secure a £300m construction order from the Sultan of Oman — an order which her son Mark reportedly sought for the firm in a commercial capacity.

Mr. Margaret Thatcher said she was happy if her lobbying has helped a British firm to secure a £300m construction order from the Sultan of Oman — an order which her son Mark reportedly sought for the firm in a commercial capacity.

According to *The Observer* newspaper yesterday, Mr. Mark Thatcher was in Oman at the same time acting on behalf of the Cementation Ltd. The British company seeking the order to build a university. His visit was unpublicised. Although the newspaper made it clear that there was no suggestion of "corruption or wickedness" the matter was raised.

Mr. Thatcher said she was happy if her lobbying has helped a British firm to secure a £300m construction order from the Sultan of Oman — an order which her son Mark reportedly sought for the firm in a commercial capacity.

It has been pointed out that the only British company seeking the contract, and that Thatcher was doing what a British prime minister would do.

However, Labour MP for Dagenham, John Grieve, said that the report showed that the Prime Minister was insensitive to the distinction between her public and private life.

When she was asked on television to comment on the report, Mrs. Thatcher said: "I am not a politician. I am a mother."

She said she was happy if her lobbying has helped a British firm to secure a £300m construction order from the Sultan of Oman — an order which her son Mark reportedly sought for the firm in a commercial capacity.



After the service: Dr Graham and his wife, Ruth, with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and the Rector of Sandringham

Powerful service from a silver pulpit to a select few

Dr Billy Graham, the American evangelist, attracted a relatively small but regal crowd at Sandringham yesterday.

Lower than 2,000 people turned out to hear Dr Graham, who normally attracts audiences of many thousands, although his audience included six members of the Royal Family: the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their son Lord Nicholas Windsor. Prince Edward was not present, although he is at Sandringham, as he has Glandular Fever. He

was said yesterday to be "well on the way to recovery".

The Royal Family and 130 estate workers watched Dr Graham preach a powerful sermon from a silver pulpit given by Rodman Wanamaker, an American businessman, 60 years ago, in the ornate fourteenth century St Mary Magdalene church. About 1,800 onlookers stood outside in the bitterly cold wind to hear the 25-minute address.

Dr Graham took Psalm 23 as his text and spoke of belief and love of God in overcoming personal as well

as national problems. He was watched by his wife, Ruth. The Queen and the Queen Mother, both wearing blue, arrived by car with the Duchess of Kent.

The Grahams later went to Sandringham House for lunch. Dr Graham is an old friend of the Royal Family and first met the Queen in 1955 when he preached at the private chapel in Windsor. He has lunched with the queen whenever he has been in Britain. His last visit was in 1967.

Dr Graham, who is 65, said preaching before the Royal Family meant "the same as preaching anywhere in the world, because. Wherever I go I preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God and I always have to preach in front of the King of Kings, Lord of Lords. So it is always a time of tremendous soul-searching for me and a great privilege, and a sense of humility and unworthiness to preach the gospel at any time."

Dr Graham starts his Mission England campaign in May and will visit football stadiums in Bristol, Sunderland, Norwich, Birmingham and Ipswich.

Letter from Moscow

50-year-old rebel shows his class

He wears steel-rimmed spectacles now to declaim his poetry, or at least to emphasise poignant moments, stabbing them in the air or pausing to perch them ineptly on his nose.

The face is lined, the hair no longer touse, but Yevgeny Yevtushenko can still hold an audience in the palm of his hand as he used to in the 1960s, when crowds of overwrought youngsters packed football stadiums to hear him.

Yevtushenko is older now — approaching 51 — and the audiences are older too. They sit on the stairs in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, some in sweaters and others in sober suits.

"Yevtushenko reads his verse", said the starkly simple poster outside, but it was enough to bring the fans swarming in, pushing and shoving against the police auxiliaries in red armbands, a theatre-door melee reminiscent of the days when Yevtushenko was mobbed like a film star. He has in fact been a film actor (he took the part of a famous Russian scientist, Konstantin Tsiolkovsky) as well as poet, novelist, photographer and most recently film director.

Yevtushenko's poetry reading — the first since he attempted a repetition of a sixties-style stadium reading during the summer — came at a critical time, with the poet under fire for spreading himself too thinly and failing to conform to the Andropov regime's instructions on socialist realist orthodoxy in the arts. His new film, *Kindergarten*, is about to be released after long struggles with the censor.

Last month the literary journal *Our Contemporary* (Nash Sovremennik) mocked Yevtushenko's film career and launched a bitter attack on his novel *Berry Places*, which contains frank passages about the scale of Stalin's terror, particularly in the countryside.

Would Yevtushenko show repentance, perhaps pull his punches to placate officialdom? He strode on, taut with

the old energy, but with tiredness too.

The sight of a sheaf of manuscripts next to the red and white Thermos on the table beside him caused a stir: this was clearly not a burnt out performer going through well worn routines. There were old and new favourites. But there were unpublished offerings too, wry, bitter and sardonic, barbed shafts aimed at the corrupt, the privileged, the *nouveaux riches*. This was Yevtushenko in his role as defender of the little man and scourge of the powerful, his political compromises with the authorities put on one side.

The audience laughed with delight and approval, enjoying the sight of a 50-year-old rebel scornfully depicting sleek, black cars arriving at the back door of a shop in the fashionable Arbat district of Moscow while a poor working-woman queues in vain on the icy pavement outside.

There were acid pen-portraits of Soviet "producers of ugliness", and of a corrupt shop manager with his illegally acquired imported hi-fi, beer and wallpaper. "Was it for this we stormed the Winter Palace? Was it for this we suffered in the war against Hitler?" The audience erupted, acclaiming the man who voices their humiliation and despair, and brushing aside the fact that he also toes the Kremlin line when necessary.

At the end Yevtushenko autographs books and posters thrust forward on to the stage by his most faithful fans: a round-faced army officer, an old white-haired lady, a young girl in tight white jeans.

Afterwards, in the dressing room, he seems drained. People crowd in to congratulate him, but Yevtushenko seems preoccupied with his forthcoming film, fretting over how it will be received. He pours a sweet wine from Abkhazia, the district of Georgia where he has a summer home, and takes a gulp before turning on to the stage again to respond to calls for an encore.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

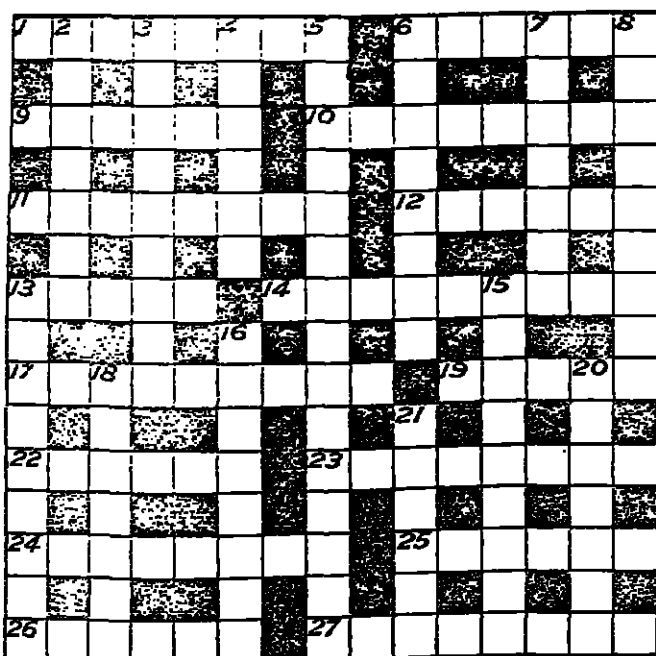
New London exhibitions

English and Welsh watercolours, 17th-19th centuries, exhibited in the National Gallery, London, until Jan 27. Photography, 19th-20th centuries, exhibited in the National Gallery, London, until Jan 27. Photography, 19th-20th centuries, exhibited in the National Gallery, London, until Jan 27.

Exhibitions in progress

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,336



ACROSS

- Plant's common hiding-place for cocaine? (6).
- Tool commonly used for 7 (6).
- Emergency over some of Oxfordshire's water (6).
- Upper-class application of leverage engenders rebellion (8).
- Celebration? A mere job, it turns out (6).
- Mull over quietly, or end badly (6).
- Muslim princess, for example, taken in by American vagrant (5).
- Old manuscript for churchmen? Not entirely (9).
- Descent of vessel I'd interrupt to share out again (9).
- Faint glow in angle, ample to see by (5).
- Marking on map is no sandbank (6).
- Result of second thoughts about imaginative insight (8).
- A horse and sheep sort as angered and enraged (8).
- Thus retiring into strange sort of sleeping accommodation (6).
- Catty type — commander of eastern bunch (6).
- Disorderly unker accepts new novel (8).

DOWN
2 A ranting disposed to tell a tale (7).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,335 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 6

Nature notes

Atlantic gales blow a few stormy-petrels on to our Western coasts, where they are soon snapped up by the larger gulls. Most petrels spend the winter out in mid-ocean, fishing for plankton; sometimes they flutter across the water with legs hanging down, as though they were walking on the waves. Many shearwaters also stay out at sea; they are faster flyers than petrels, tilting their wings from side to side as they skim over the surface. Cormorants sit on the rocks, sometimes sticking their heads under the water with only their neck and head visible. Shags are faster flyers than petrels, tilting their wings from side to side as they skim over the surface. Cormorants sit on the rocks, sometimes sticking their heads under the water with only their neck and head visible.

Robins are singing vigorously; they keep their wings half-open as they sing, like a small clock on their shoulders. When they are alarmed, they make a sharp, ticking call, bobbing forward emphatically on the first note. Some resident starlings are already developing yellow beaks in anticipation of the breeding season.

Red dead-nettle is in flower in many places; its leaves are needle-shaped but it is a relative of mint, not of the stinging nettle. Chickweed and groundsel go on flowering in gardens through most of the winter.

DJM

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes, announced on Saturday, are: £100,000: SDL 076198. The winner lives in Walsall; £50,000: 10XB 923968 (Kent); £25,000: 22VT 934336 (Kent).

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.62	1.53
Austria Sch	29.10	27.58
Belgium Fr	84.75	80.75
Canada \$	1.81	1.74
Denmark Kr	14.88	14.18
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.30
France Fr	12.47	11.97
Germany DM	4.10	3.91
Greece Dr	164.00	154.00
Hong Kong \$	11.25	10.65
Ireland Pn	1.32	1.27
Italy Lira	2490.00	2370.00
Japan Yen	344.00	326.00
Netherlands Gld	4.62	4.39
Norway Kr	11.58	10.98
Portugal Esc	198.00	183.00
Spain Ptas	233.50	223.50
South Africa R	11.98	11.38
Sweden Kr	3.27	3.10
Switzerland Fr	1.44	1.39
USA \$	219.00	208.00

Prices for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Retail Price Index: 341.9. London: the FT Index closed 12.1 up at 801.1 on Friday. New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 9.21 down at 1270.10.

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Roads

Midlands: A45: Roadworks at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire, between Daventry and Daventry. A49: Single lane traffic with signals at Marshbrook, between Shrewsbury and Ludlow. A61: Temporary signals at Whittington Moor, Cheshire, Derbyshire.

North: A670: Bolton Road, Greater Manchester, closed from its junction with Old Bolton Road to Bolton Boundary for major roadworks. A575: Egerton Street, Farnworth, Greater Manchester, closed north to the junction with Gladstone Road, for sewer work; diversions, A645: North Yorkshire, traffic lights.

Wales and West: M5: North and southbound carriageway lane closures between junction 8 and 9 due to roadworks. M4: Lane closures on both carriageways, for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across the Severn Bridge. A35: Roadworks at Loughwood, and at Bow Bridge, between Axminster and Honiton, Devon; temporary signals.

Scotland: A82: Resurfacing and drainage work from two miles north of Tarbet, Dumfriesshire, progressing further north for three miles; traffic reduced to a single lane, controlled by lights. A75: Repair works at Turnave Bridge, west of Douglas, Kirkcubright, single lane traffic with lights. A90: Car's eye repair work between Forth Road Bridge and junction 1 of the M90; lane closures on the outside lane of the southbound carriageway. Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Daily Mirror comments on yesterday's report in *The Observer* that while in 1981 Mrs Thatcher publicly and successfully tried to win a £300m contract for Britain to build a university and a hospital in Oman, her son Mark was privately acting for the firm Cementation International, to get the contract.

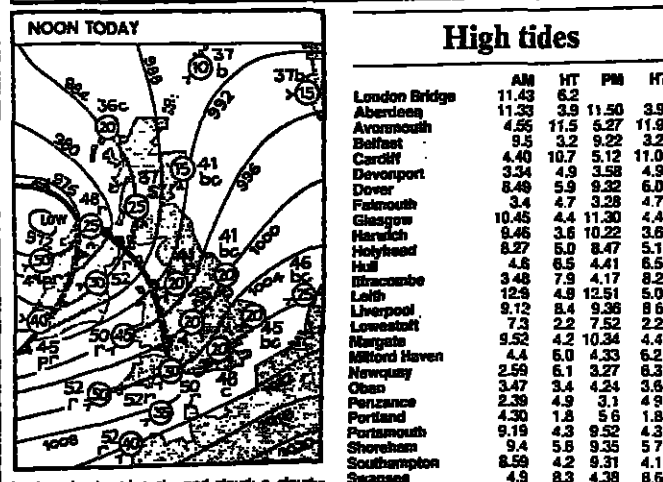
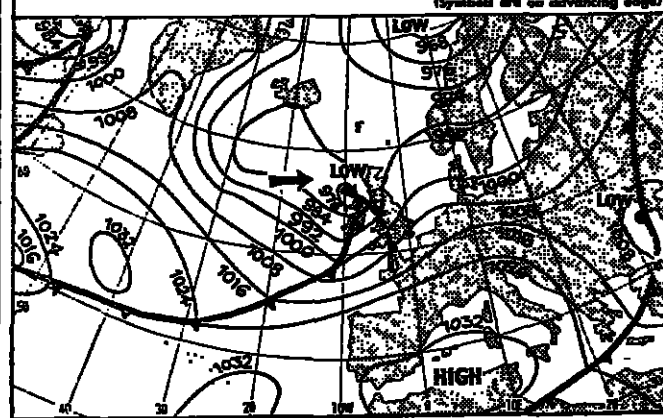
The paper says: "Mrs Thatcher's visit to the sheikdom was with a blaze of publicity. Mark Thatcher's was secret and unpublicised. If Mrs Thatcher doesn't understand why that kind of embarrassment should be avoided at all costs it is astonishing."

The fact that Mark Thatcher is the Prime Minister's son ought not to hinder his legitimate business interests. But, at the same time, some of those interests could only be avoided because he is the Prime Minister's son."

OU leaflets

Leaflets on BBC Open University programmes are available to non-students who send a large stamped addressed envelope to Information Officer, BBC Open University Production Centre, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BH.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded



High tides

	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.42	5.11	5.11
Aberdeen	11.32	5.02	5.02
Aberystwyth	11.32	5.02	5.02
Belfast	11.32	5.02	5.02
Cardiff	11.32	5.02	5.02
Dundee	11.32	5.02	5.02
Edinburgh	11.32	5.02	5.02
Glasgow	11.32	5.02	5.02
Harwich	11.32	5.02	5.02
Heathrow	11.32	5.02	5.02
Hull	11.32	5.02	5.02
Leamington	11.32	5.02	5.02
Leith	11.32	5.02	5.02
Liverpool	11.32	5.02	5.02
Londonderry	11.32	5.02	5.02
Manchester	11.32	5.02	5.02
Marazion	11.32	5.02	5.02
Millport Haven	11.32	5.02	5.02
Monmouth	11.32	5.02	5.02
Oban	11.32	5.02	5.02
Portsmouth	11.32	5.02	5.02
Portsmouth	11.32	5.02	5.02
Shrewsbury	11.32	5.02	5.02
Southampton	11.32	5.02	5.02
Swansea	11.32	5.02	5.02
Torquay	11.32	5.02	5.02
Walsby-on-Naze	11.32	5.02	5.02
Wexham	11.32	5.02	5.02

Around Britain

	Sun	Rain	Cloud	Max	Min
Scotland	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
England	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Wales	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Yorkshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Devon	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Gloucestershire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Herefordshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Shropshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Staffordshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Warwickshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
West Midlands	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
West Yorkshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Wiltshire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Worcestershire	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Wrexham	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Wymond	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32

Abroad

	Cloud	Fair	Rain	Sun	Max	Min
Algeria	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Alexandria	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Algiers	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Amsterdam	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Athens	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Bahia	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Batavia	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Bombay	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Buenos Aires	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Calcutta	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Canton	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Cebu	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Colon	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Hankow	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Hong Kong	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Kobe	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
London	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Lyons	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Manila	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Medan	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Mexico City	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Montevideo	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Moscow	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Odessa	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Paris	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Peking	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Rangoon	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
San Francisco	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Shanghai	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Singapore	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Sourabaya	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Tientsin	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32
Yokohama	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32	11.32

Weather

A depression will cross N Ireland and S Scotland with its associated troughs of low pressure crossing all parts.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, Midlands: Rain at first, then squally with strong winds, becoming heavy rain, with gusts in places, max temp 5 to 10°C (41 to 50°F). SW, central S England, S Wales, Channel Islands: Rain at first, becoming heavy rain, with gusts in places, max temp 5 to 10°C (41 to 50°F). NE, central N England, Lake District: Rain at first, becoming heavy rain, with gusts in places, max temp 5 to 10°C (41 to 50°F). Rain spreading from W, preceded by snow for a time, clearing later, wind S, becoming NW, with gusts in places, max temp 5 to 10°C (41 to 50°F). N Wales, NW England, Lake of Morn: Northern Ireland: Rain and snow at first, clearing later, though with squally showers, with S, becoming NW, with gusts in places, max temp 5 to 10°C (41 to 50°F). Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee